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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Palestinian Sources on U.S. Draft Declaration

*TA2206125293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Jun 93 p 1*

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Washington—Palestinian sources said yesterday that the U.S. Administration has presented a draft declaration of principles to the Israeli and Palestinian sides in the peace talks with the aim of bridging the gap between them.

The Palestinian sources explained that the U.S. draft proposed that the final stage talks for solving the Palestinian problem begin in October 1995 regardless of when agreement is reached on self- rule.

The sources said that the declaration of principles also includes the participation of East Jerusalem residents in elections for self- rule and easing the restrictions imposed on West Bank and Gaza Strip residents for entering East Jerusalem.

### 'Ashrawi Says Jerusalem Remains Major Issue

*TA2206191493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpts] Observers in the U.S. capital see slim chances for progress in the peace talks, which resumed in Washington this evening. The Palestinians persist in their demand to discuss the issue of Jerusalem within the next few days, while the head of the Syrian delegation sharply attacked Israel, saying that the Arabs did not come to the talks to sign a document of surrender. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Stern] Elyaqim Rubinstein last night phoned Faysal al-Husayni and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the heads of the Palestinian delegation, from the Mayflower Hotel to persuade them to circumvent the problem of Jerusalem and advance in the talks about a joint document of principles. In the meeting hall this evening, Rubinstein will tell the Palestinians that they can discuss practical matters pertaining to the Arabs of East Jerusalem, such as the closure or their participation in the elections to the autonomy council.

Although they are aware of the fact that Jerusalem is a land mine, the Palestinians insist on stepping on it, as Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi stated in an interview with us.

['Ashrawi, in English] Well, Jerusalem has never been off the table. It has never been excluded from negotiations, despite Israeli attempts to say it is not subject to negotiations. Jerusalem has always been within the jurisdiction item of territorial jurisdiction or defining the geographical scope of the negotiations, whether it is Jerusalem or settlements. [as heard] These two have become the major obstacles. And, I think that once we achieve an agreement on the territorial jurisdiction of the interim self-government authority, then it will be very simple to move ahead with the others, because that would solve the issue of Jerusalem and the settlements.

[Israeli negotiator Dani Rothschild] The position of all Israeli governments has been that Jerusalem will not be divided again and will remain under Israeli sovereignty. The Palestinians knew that when they entered the negotiations. Their method is to raise the question of Jerusalem whenever they run into a problem or when chances emerge of making some sort of breakthrough. In my view, this problem will be very tough to overcome. This is something we knew and the Palestinians knew, and they entered the negotiations on that basis.

[Stern] The Americans are making enormous bridging efforts. Their peace team met this evening with the heads of the Palestinian delegation in a bid to persuade them to move ahead.

To sum up, it seems that the negotiations in Washington, in their present format and personal make-up, are about to dry up. During the summer, the Americans will probably have to come up with a new trick to get the sinking cart out of the mud. This will be the topmost mission of Dr. Dennis Ross, the new coordinator of the peace talks. [end recording]

### Called Reason Behind Standstill

*TA2306070293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Report from Washington by Razi Barqay]

[Text] There are no good tidings from Washington. Israel is offering the Palestinians self-administration authorities, while the Palestinians say that they have to refer this issue to their leadership. Israel is asking them to denounce terrorism, while they say that terrorism is not a Palestinian patent and has two sides. This issue also must be referred to the Palestinian leadership, they added. New codes of communication have been created here: When the Palestinians speak about their leadership, they are referring to the PLO-Tunis but do not say so explicitly. The Israeli delegation, on its part, asks no questions when hearing the Palestinians refer to their leadership.

In the background of this futile dialogue looms the real issues of Jerusalem and the settlements. Israel insists that these issues must not be discussed during the negotiations over the interim arrangement, whereas the Palestinians, including delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat, insist that there can be no document without dealing with Jerusalem:

[Begin 'Urayqat recording, in English] The Israelis think that a full declaration of principles is not do-able. We think it's do-able, and we think that a declaration of principles that does not tackle—or any document that does not tackle the issue, the difficult issue: jurisdiction, territoriality, Jerusalem—is not going to provide us the basis or the foundations to build on. [end recording]

With Jordan, things are easier. The joint working teams yesterday discussed practical issues, such as water desalination projects, establishing bank branches in the territories, and even the joint fumigation of mosquitoes, flies, and cockroaches in the Gulf of Elat. King Husayn, who is currently visiting the United States, said that Jordan and Israel are close to an agreement, but that such an agreement will not be signed before something positive happens on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

So what now? Everybody is waiting for the Americans to act.

## Palestinian Delegation Head Criticizes U.S. Posture

*PM2306101593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 5*

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of Palestinian delegation to bilateral peace negotiations, by Fatinah al-Dajani in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Dajani] What is the latest on the negotiations as far as the declaration of principles is concerned? What is your position?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I say that we are not against having a declaration of principles. It would be an agenda that would facilitate the negotiation process, but we insist that it should be a clear declaration covering the fundamental issues including Jerusalem, settlement, human rights, and the powers of the provisional government. We will not accept an incomplete or partial declaration of principles. We insist that it must be complete, otherwise there would be no declaration of principles. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dajani] Do you see Washington's retreat from the invitation to the Madrid conference as an attempt to put pressure on the Palestinians to lower the ceiling of their demands?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is indeed the case. The position taken by the United States is less than we wanted and falls short of our expectations, especially its failure to impose adherence to the terms of reference and to fulfill the U.S. ideas contained in the letter of assurances. We are really unhappy about that. That position undoubtedly places major obstacles in the way of the negotiations.

[Al-Dajani] There is increasing talk among Palestinians about U.S. financial aid for the occupied territories. It has been rumored that it would be conditional on the success of the 10th round. Would such aid boost the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I have no information on that matter. At any rate, we reject any conditional aid. Progress in the negotiations is up to the Palestinian delegation. I would never be a party to a negotiation process that is conditional on U.S. aid. I can say that this is also the position of the other members of the delegation.

[Al-Dajani] What is your position on the idea of implementing autonomy in Gaza first? Does that not arouse fears that a settlement in Gaza might be at the expense of the rest of the occupied territories? What effect would it have on the other Arab tracks which could possibly sign agreemenhs [with Israel] on the grounds that there has been some progress on the Palestinian front?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I have already made it clear that there would be no discussion of autonomy in Gaza except in the context of a comprehensive settlement covering the occupied territories. If no comprehensive agreement is reached there would be no talk of agreement on Gaza first. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dajani] The People's Party (formerly the Communist Party) has recently withdrawn from the negotiations. Before that, there was opposition to the negotiations from the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] in the framework of the 10 organizations based in Damascus, and also from Hamas and some Fatah groups. Who is left? Whom does the delegation represent?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The decision to go to Washington was made by the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the legitimate leadership. True, there is disagreement as to whether to boycott or continue to participate in the negotiations, but there is another aspect which must be taken into consideration. That is the Arab aspect and our interest in having a unified Arab stance. That adds another dimension to the suspension or nonsuspension of the negotiations. What is important is that the Palestinian people should understand the true situation.

I say that the fact that we have participated in the last two rounds should not be exaggerated, although I still maintain that it is not right to continue to participate in a process which provides a cover for Israel's illegitimate practices in the occupied territories.

[Al-Dajani] Meaning that you still urge boycott of the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I have been calling for the suspension of the negotiations since the eighth round.

[Al-Dajani] Do you have an alternative to the negotiations or a concept regarding the situation in the occupied territories?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is another matter which makes it difficult to suspend the negotiations because we would be asked to come up with a credible alternative—which is a difficult thing to do in the circumstances. We hope that if the desired inter-Palestinian dialogue succeeds we would be in a better position to provide a better alternative that would make suspension [of the negotiations] a possibility. [passage omitted]

## Rubinstein: Agreement Depends on Palestinians

*TA2306052793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Telephone interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan and the Palestinians, in Washington by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning to Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan and the Palestinians.

[Rubinstein] Good morning to you.

[Qital] There is a situation of asymmetry when, on one hand, Israel is talking about various practical issues with Jordan, whereas, on the other hand, on the Palestinian track we are stuck over the issue of Jerusalem. How can Israel maneuver in this situation of asymmetry?

[Rubinstein] The question is not one of asymmetry but rather of attaining progress with the Palestinians, because Jordan makes progress on their track conditional upon the Palestinian issue. Forgive me for boring your listeners, but I must ask again whether the Palestinians are going to deal with what is possible or with what is impossible. We cannot and will not deal with the issue of Jerusalem. Raising more demands regarding this issue will not make us pay a heavier price in the negotiations, because we also know what lies behind this. Our advice is....

[Qital, interrupting] Mr. Rubinstein, do you think that it is possible to reach a document of principles in the 10th round of talks?

[Rubinstein] First, in reference to the fact that this is already the 10th round of talks, we must remember that this reflects a complicated situation that includes long delays because of various political and security reasons, as well as various other factors. The talks also went through various stages of childhood diseases and emotional growing pains until they reached the practical stages. We are very close to dealing with the heart of the matter and the main issues. Referring to your specific question, the chances of securing a document depend on a Palestinian decision to deal with the attainable. If they reach such a decision, we stand a chance of securing a document.

I assume that both the direct contacts and the U.S. involvement will make it possible to bridge the gaps toward such a declaration of principles. I do not want to hazard a precise forecast regarding this issue, however.

[Qital] What is the U.S. stand concerning Jerusalem?

[Rubinstein] They have a historical position according to which Jerusalem should not be redivided and its future should be determined in the negotiations on the permanent settlement. This means that it should remain united and that there should be some sort of negotiations over this issue when dealing with the permanent arrangement. This is how I see their position. We, however, represent the Israeli Government, and on the issue of Jerusalem, all Israeli governments have had a very clear and explicit position—namely, that it is the united and undivided capital of Israel, with all that this implies, and we adhere to this position.

[Qital] Thank you, Mr. Rubinstein.

## Al-'Allaf, Rabinovich Comment on Talks Resumption

*TA2206172693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Chief Syrian negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf says if Israel thinks the Arabs will negotiate as the losers of the Six Day War it is very much mistaken. Unless Israel withdraws from the entire Golan Heights, al-'Allaf said, the Arab-Israel struggle will continue. He was speaking in Washington, on arrival at the State Department for today's session of the bilateral talks. More details from Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf reacted angrily to an article in THE WASHINGTON POST saying the Arabs should recognize that they lost the Six Day War and agree to territorial compromise. If Israel and the Americans think we will negotiate from a position of losers, he said, they are very much mistaken.

[Al-'Allaf] I believe the United States as cosponsor, and as a cosponsor who promised to be a driving force, full partner, honest broker, they have to ask themselves and to see why the peace process is not progressing.

[Katzenell] Unless the Israelis withdraw from the entire Golan Heights, al-'Allaf said, our struggle with them will continue.

Israel's chief negotiator Itamar Rabinovich was much more conciliatory. He said the talks with Syria have been fruitful. And, if they tell us what they mean by peace, security arrangements, and comprehensiveness, the negotiations can move ahead, he said.

Contrary to what Prime Minister Rabin has been saying, Rabinovich thought the degree of American involvement in the talks is adequate for the present.

[Rabinovich] The United States is very much a part of these negotiations, it is very intimately involved in the overall orchestration of the peace process, it monitors the negotiations, it talks to both parties here, in Washington. And, on the political level, last week in Vienna Secretary Christopher met both with the Israeli and the Syrian foreign ministers.

[Katzenell] To bring the U.S. in as a third party now would be gratuitous and superfluous, Rabinovich said. When a breakthrough is made the situation could change. [end recording]

## Al-'Allaf: Israeli Position Deliberately Ambiguous

*JN2306064993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has stated that discussions during the fourth day of the 10th round of talks continued to revolve around the issue of withdrawal, but without achieving any result, because the Israeli side has failed to commit itself to complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Al-'Allaf denied that security issues were discussed during yesterday's meeting, saying: We are discussing the issue of withdrawal. As for security issues, these cannot be discussed except within the context of an agreed withdrawal. This is because security cannot be discussed in a vacuum. Besides, security arrangements and measures must refer to specific territory.

Al-'Allaf pointed out that there is deliberate ambiguity in the Israeli position with respect to commitment to complete withdrawal. He said there could be two reasons for this: Either the Israeli side is not mandated to provide such a commitment, or there is no serious Israeli intention to effect a complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-'Allaf added: If the latter is the reason for this ambiguity, then this means that the peace process is vulnerable and actually endangered. This is because without an Israeli commitment to complete withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, a basic element of the peace process is missing.

When asked whether the Syrian side wants to see the Americans intervene to bridge the gap between the positions of the two sides, al-'Allaf responded by saying: As I have already said on previous occasions, I believe that the U.S. sponsor is following developments closely. If it intends to play the role it promised to play; namely, that of a full partner, an honest broker, and a catalyst, the U.S. sponsor must determine the reasons for the failure to make progress. Moreover, it must intercede with the party that is obstructing progress through its failure to comply with the terms of reference of the peace process, and also through its failure to clearly and unequivocally subscribe to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to the principle of exchanging land for peace.

Al-'Allaf had earlier asked the United States to actually play the role of the full partner it promised to play in the talks, whose 10th round entered its second week in Washington yesterday.

Al-'Allaf added: In its capacity as a sponsor of the peace talks, and given its promise to advance the peace process, the United States must ask itself why the peace process has thus far failed to progress. It must identify the party responsible for the failure to make the required progress. Consequently, it must endeavor to convince this party to comply with the terms of reference of the peace process. He went on to say: This does not mean that the United States must negotiate on behalf of the sides engaged in the negotiations. What we want is to see the United States ensure that all parties comply with the peace talks' terms of reference.

On whether these statements indicate that the United States is not currently playing such a role, al-'Allaf said: If the Americans are playing such a role, we, regrettably, have not thus far seen any results with respect to the conduct of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks. The Israeli negotiating position being communicated to the Syrian delegation by the Israeli side does not harmonize with Israel's announcement of its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and its endorsement of the land for peace principle.

Al-'Allaf added: The Israeli delegation continues to speak of preconditions. This means that it is not convinced that the objective of the peace process should indeed be the attainment of just and comprehensive peace and resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of such a just solution.

## Lebanese Official Rebuts Israeli Claims on Resolution 425

*NC2306072793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Israel has reiterated that it does not recognize UN Security Council Resolution 425 and insisted on concluding a peace treaty with Lebanon.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese negotiating team, has told the Israeli delegation to the peace talks: Your presence on Lebanese territories is an occupation.

Following yesterday's session of talks in Washington, Shammas issued a statement in which he replied to the Israeli claims and underlined some unique points in the Lebanese-Israeli track. The most prominent of these points is that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 do not embrace the Israeli occupation of the south. He said: We have continued our negotiations with the Israeli delegation, and I am certain that they have noted that we are masters of our own free will, as delegations are. This is the first point.

Secondly, we are here to negotiate for a real peace. Our national priorities and supreme national interests are in our hands. While there was not enough time to reply to certain statements made to the press due to the nature of the discussions that took place this morning inside the halls, nothing has helped change the mentality of those who have set their minds on having their own assessment of events.

Shammas went on to say: We have discussed the Israeli stand as presented in the Israeli paper that was submitted on 4 May. The basic point in the paper is their proposal to form a military working group. The Israelis must realize that we will continue to adhere to our stand, that the prevailing situation in Lebanon is one of occupation and should be treated as such, and that a solution for it must be found. We stress that a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally recognized borders is the solution to the existing situation. We have stressed in the past and continue to stress that this opens the way to peace. Reaching a real peace is the true objective of the Madrid peace conference.

I reiterated inside the negotiating room Lebanon's commitment—the irrevocable commitment of my government, state, and people—to reach real peace. The prerequisites for real peace will be provided as long as they are binding on the two parties. This is our stand, and we will continue to adhere to it. We are not here to start security arrangements that guarantee a basically unnatural situation and leave it unresolved.

Shammas added: We do not believe that this is the right way to achieve peace on the Lebanese track. All the tracks are interlinked, and there is a structural link between them. Everyone accepts this, albeit to varying degrees. Each track has its own special characteristics. One of the most important basic characteristics is the fact that Lebanon is subject to an occupation that is not embraced by Resolutions 242 and 338. This is unique to this track. It is true that the invitation to the Madrid conferences did not specify the resolution of this aspect of the Lebanese-Israeli file but it was encompassed in the spirit of the invitation, the letters of guarantees, and the nature of the peace process. If the existing situation of occupation leads to peace, then I have to study history again and what history really teaches us. Lebanon will adhere to its stand until we and the Israelis start to lay down the basis for mutual understanding. I believe, and even hope, that the Israelis will do their work in this regard. We are ready to reach an agreement in the end.

[In a related report from its correspondent in Washington, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0515 GMT on 23 Jun adds: "Shammas defended the Lebanese delegation's freedom of action, adding that Israel's refusal to admit that it is an occupying force is the basic point that separates the two stands. The verbal accusations continued through the two sides' statements after the Israelis refused to describe their presence in Lebanon as occupation and diverted attention to another issue by raising the matter of Syria's presence in Lebanon, but without naming it, and claiming that Lebanon would have acted differently had it been free to make its decisions, as the head of the Israeli delegation, Uri Lubrani, said. Shammas said that the Lebanese delegation proposed in the document presented to the Israelis the formation of a Lebanese- Israeli military committee that will be joined by representatives of the UN Emergency Force, but the Israelis do not accept either the truce agreement or its mechanism. The Lebanese official added that the U.S. letter of assurances confirms that Resolution 425 applies to the existing situation in Lebanon and that any other claim on the Israelis' part does not negate the fact that they know the contents of the letter. He said that the Israelis' claim that there is not a clear term of reference to the invitation to the Madrid conference means that their concept of the resolution to establish peace is afflicted by a major and basic defect."]

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Iraqi Envoy Delivers Messages to Arab League Chief

*NC2206203393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1339 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League.

Afterward, Ambassador Najm said he conveyed two messages from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Awqaf Minister 'Abdallah Fadil. The ministers sought the Arab League's intervention with some Western and Arab countries to release approximately $10 million of frozen Iraqi assets to finance the purchase of equipment needed to implement a new Iraqi program on education and religious affairs.

He said the Iraqi Government will begin to implement the program in September and that religious education will be a primary subject in the preparatory and secondary education certificates. Iraq has allocated 150 million Iraqi dinars locally and is awaiting $10 million to purchase the equipment necessary for the project from abroad, he added.

Commenting on the Arab League secretary general's initiative to improve relations, he said that while it asserts its support for the initiative's essence and idea, Iraq is very eager to achieve genuine Arab solidarity and to achieve the secretary general's goal on sound bases.

He said Iraq is ready for discussion and dialogue to reach a formula for pan-Arab security. Those who seek reconciliation should at the same time take the initiative to lift the three-year blockade on Iraq, which kills children, women, and elderly people.

On Iraq's failure to respond promptly to the issue of Kuwaiti detainees held in Iraq, he said Iraq has received individual files from the Arab League Secretariat and handed them to the International Red Cross. He said his country is trying to gather information on these missing people and added that investigations take time and some cases are unclear. He noted that his country also has thousands of people missing in Kuwaiti and Saudi jails and in Iran.

On compensation for the Egyptians who worked in Iraq, the Iraqi delegate said his country does not deny these rights, certainly not those of the Egyptians, and will pay them in full when the embargo has been lifted and cash is available.

## Islamic Affairs

### ICO Members To Discuss Sending Troops to Bosnia

*LD2206122093 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Vienna, June 22, IRNA—Member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] here Monday [21 June] decided to hold a joint session of the ICO foreign and defence ministers in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in a week, to study ways of immediate implementation of the Security Council Resolution 836. The resolution among other things calls on Muslim countries to cooperate for dispatch of forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The ICO ministers in Jeddah are to discuss details of the resolution including responsibility of the dispatched forces, rules about confrontation, procedure for arms supply and shipment, acquiring sufficient guarantees from the Security Council for an immediate reaction against Serbs if the dispatched forces were attacked and withdrawal of heavy artillery of Serbs from around safe zones, which are to be determined by the Muslim peacekeeping forces.

### Algerian Company Signs Agreement With IDB

*LD2206185193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 22 Jun (SPA)—Two agreements worth a total of $29.54 million were signed this afternoon at the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] in Jeddah between the bank and the Algerian National Electricity and Gas Company.

The first agreement, worth $12.04 million, consists of funds for the import of the necessary equipment for the company's computer project.

The second agreement consists of providing financing worth $17.5 million for the import of the necessary equipment for a power line project between the town of Saida, in central Algeria, and Bechar, in the south, for the benefit of the same company. [passage omitted]

Another $6 million agreement was signed this afternoon at IDB headquarters between the bank's fund for investment shares and the Algerian National Electricity and Gas Company to buy the necessary equipment for the construction of an information unit in the company. [passage omitted]

It is worth pointing out here that the IDB fund for investment shares was set up in December 1989 with initial capital of $100 million, with the aim of attracting new monetary resources for the IDB from the market.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Radio Reports 'Arafat-'Aziz Meeting in Geneva

*JN2206174693 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] paid a short visit to Geneva yesterday evening during which he met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Immediately after his arrival, Abu-'Ammar conferred with Tariq 'Aziz at the headquarters of the Iraqi mission to the United Nations in Geneva. Later he went to the airport to return to Tunis.

Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Geneva yesterday. He met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali and discussed all aspects of relations between Iraq and the United Nations.

### Official Gives Details on Central Committee Meeting

*NC2206194093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Tunis, 22 (MENA)—Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, has announced that the committee is continuing its meetings chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat and is discussing the items on its agenda, notably the political situation and Fatah's internal conditions.

In an interview with MENA's Tunis correspondent, 'Abd-al-Rahim said the Central Committee has almost finished discussing the political situation, particularly with regard to the ninth and 10th rounds of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, and has drawn up a plan based on Palestinian constants and the Palestinian people's objective of establishing an independent state.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the committee has made several important decisions concerning the peace process, which will be announced soon. He said the meetings are frank and serious and reflect the desire to maintain Fatah's leadership of the Palestinian national movement.

'Abd-al-Rahim said that today and tomorrow the Fatah Central Committee will discuss issues pertaining to the situation inside the occupied territories and ways to confront the growing Israeli challenges that seek to weaken Fatah and the intifadah.

He announced that the Central Committee suspended its meetings for a few hours yesterday to enable President Yasir 'Arafat to travel to Geneva to meet Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, with whom he had an appointment.

Regarding the rumor of the Palestinian president's resignation as Fatah chairman, 'Abd-al-Rahim said this is unfounded and is merely an attempt to create confusion, cast doubt on the movement's unity and cohesion, and give credence to the allegations by some hostile bodies about Fatah's internal affairs.

'Abd-al-Rahim emphasized that the Fatah Movement is democratic and allows the free exchange of views. He said: We differ then we agree. Our aim is to forge ahead in our pursuit of our national objectives.

He explained that those who wait to pounce on the movement portray its democratic practices as profound disagreements or divisions. He said there can never be such a thing.

## 'Arafat Discusses Commitment to Peace Negotiations

*PM2206142393 Rome L'UNITA in Italian
20 Jun 93 p 2*

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Antonio Rubbi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Tunis—The meeting had been set up long ago. But then, as almost always happens in the unending odyssey of his land and his people, 'Arafat had to move from one Arab capital to another, from one meeting to another, to parry the thrusts, adjust positions, table new initiatives, infuse new hope. Now, at last, he was able to stay in Tunis for a little while, to see a few "old friends" again. Possibly between conversations with the delegation leaving for Washington, for the 10th round in the endless negotiating match which began in Madrid in October 1991. This was a stroke of luck for us (also present were Giorgio Lazzarini and Piero Ottoni, two journalists from the weekly magazine NOI); it meant we were able to conduct the first part of our long conversation with the participation of Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation at the negotiations. Indeed, 'Arafat allowed him to answer the first questions. What point has the negotiation process reached? Has there been progress? What prospects are opening up? Al-Husayni's answer was an eloquent and evocative metaphor: "Never ask a tightrope walker on a rope strung between two buildings, when he is halfway across, how it feels. He cannot listen because he would lose his concentration, he cannot answer because he is totally committed to reaching his goal and getting his feet back onto safe ground." That was a reply in itself. Extremely difficult negotiations, a balancing act at its most delicate point—the middle—and a firm determination to go forward. Yes, because trying to turn back would be disastrous. At that point, 'Arafat hastily stepped in: "People do not yet realize that if this attempt were to fail, we would have an uncontrollable explosion throughout the Middle East, a real balkanization. That is why we have returned to the negotiating table despite the tragic episode of the 415 deportees, an action unlawful in legal terms and unjustifiable in terms of human rights. The United States has acknowledged this elevated sense of responsibility on our part."

So the Palestinians, the PLO, firmly intend to continue along the path of negotiation. Is there a similar will and determination on the part of the other interlocutor? The PLO chairman is harsh in his criticism of the Israeli interlocutors, even after the arrival of the Rabin government. "We harbor great hopes, but in reality what has changed? Human rights are constantly being violated in the occupied territories; it is worse than before. Under the previous government there were 12 deportees, but Shamir was compelled to respect the UN resolution on freeing them. Rabin has had 415 people deported and nobody has succeeded in getting him to respect Resolution 799, and they are still there, in that desolate no-man's-land. According to figures released by Israeli sources, the bloodiest month in the occupied territories was last month, May, while the ninth round of negotiations was in progress. There were dozens and dozens of dead, including 19 children under the age of 13. During the religious feasts, only tourists were allowed to visit the holy places. Christians and Muslims were forbidden. You tell me, what has really changed?" We countered with the objection that in our view there have been changes, including some of some significance. Not, unfortunately, where the violence is concerned. That is clear to us, which is why we are in favor of the occupied territories being liberated through a positive conclusion to the negotiating process. What has changed with the Rabin government? For a start, we feel that a statement made by the Israeli prime minister in April during a meeting with Mubarak recognizing UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which imply withdrawal from the occupied territories, is a fact of immense significance.

'Arafat interrupted brusquely: "I have read that statement too, but we are waiting for them to make it at the negotiating table and to be prepared to commit it to a document. That has not yet happened. So far they have discussed how to put these resolutions into practice, they would like to renegotiate them; but they must simply be applied, and that is that."

We added that another important step forward was the removal of any restraint on contact with PLO members and agreeing to Palestinian leaders from Jerusalem, like al-Husayni, taking part in the delegation to the negotiations: a form of indirect recognition of the PLO, backed by the fact that 'Arafat himself was able to address 4 million Israelis on Tel Aviv state television for the first time. Are these not innovations? "They too have to allow for changes in public opinion in their country." I repeated that, in my view, this fact acquires even greater importance if we remember that Rabin has to face the reaction of the hawks in his country. "What about me?" Yasir 'Arafat asked heatedly. "I have hawks inside and outside the PLO and the occupied territories. We too have our fanatics. Faysal al-Husayni received a death threat last week. Who are the Hizballah's and the various fundamentalists' main targets? And who funds them? Surely there must be somebody willing to take Iran's policies into serious consideration?"

"Al-khityar," "the old man" as his people have always known him, seems to me to be on top form. My mind strayed to those newspapers that described him only a few months ago as a sick and weakened man. In Italy, IL GIORNO (5 February 1993) wrote: "Journalists interviewing him after the operation to remove a blood clot from his brain, a result of the 7 April 1992 airplane accident in the Libyan desert, were facing a tired man who often paused while speaking, sometimes failed to hear, and appeared to lose the thread of what he was saying." I found him more alert and pugnacious than ever, and in excellent health. Even the hand infection, which had plagued him for years, had completely disappeared. He had lost weight and seemed younger. I pointed this out to him and inquired whether his recent marriage was responsible for toning him up. "Marriage and cycling," he answered, guffawing.

We returned to the issues under discussion. More about the negotiations. People are talking of Syrian availability, under-the-counter agreements with Jordan, a new Saudi Arabian attitude toward Israel. Can there be separate agreements isolating the Palestinian question? 'Arafat ruled that out categorically. "For a start, we could never be isolated. We are the only people in the world without a country and a land in which to live. There will always be somebody to support us in order to put an end to this injustice. That is why we have so many friends. Then there is an agreement among all the Arab countries ruling out any separate agreements. We must all emerge from this situation together, with an all-embracing agreement. That is also a condition for peaceful cohabitation in the future. I will go even further: Without real progress in the main negotiations, the ones between the Israelis and the Palestinians, there will be no positive outcome to the multilateral negotiations either."

Unfortunately progress is slow. 'Arafat briefly reviewed the story of the 20 months since the beginning of the peace process. "It was written that within a year the transition phase would begin. It has been 20 months now, and we are still discussing what that should be. Fine, let's hold elections, but to elect what? A purely administrative body, or something legislative? We still do not know, nor is it clear what type of sovereignty and powers, and over whom, this elected body should have." 'Arafat asked for our notepads to be handed over to him, and on them he wrote two acronyms in capital letters. One, proposed by the Palestinian side for the future governing body, means "Palestinian self-governing authority." The other, proposed by the Israeli side, is a compromise, it talks of self-government, and the words "authority" and "Palestinian" have disappeared. "So who is to wield this power? The truth is that after a year and a half since Madrid we are still at a point where we are not accorded the primordial right of governing our own people. And that is without mentioning the final outcome of this transition phase: There is still silence on that score! Will we or will we not have our own state in the future?"

'Arafat shook his head disconsolately. These negotiations, for which he is putting all his authority and prestige on the line, really have produced only paltry results so far. "Time," he added vigorously, "is a crucial factor. That must be understood. Social conditions in the occupied territories have become intolerable at this juncture. The economy is in ruins, the population is starving. Daily losses by workers who have had the door shut in their faces and been prevented from going to work total $5 million. It is an explosive situation that cannot be contained for much longer. This is what must be understood before it is too late."

The world is restless, with hotbeds of violence spreading daily, in Bosnia, in Somalia, in Cambodia, in the Caucasus. But if things catch light here, it will be far more dramatic and dangerous, and the risk of it spreading will be far greater.

Act quickly, that seems to be 'Arafat's obsession. It is not difficult to identify with this analysis, so crude yet so realistic. The moment is such that it calls for daring and courageous initiatives. I reminded him of one of the best phrases in his speech to Israeli TV: "Let us meet as courageous men to make a courageous peace." Would he be prepared to meet with Rabin and build a "courageous peace" with him? He has no difficulty, he is ready for a face-to-face meeting. But on the other hand, he said, it would take someone like De Gaulle when he gave the Algerians their independence, or De Klerk, who freed Nelson Mandela after 26 years in prison and is beginning to build the road out of apartheid in South Africa with him. It has been 26 years since the 1967 war. "But no De Klerk has yet appeared here, and we cannot find anybody to grasp our outstretched hand." So what is required to accelerate the negotiations, to bring about a turning point in this exasperating and inconclusive shilly-shallying? "More international pressure is needed," 'Arafat answered firmly. "Above all, the United States must decide to play a more active and less partisan role." 'Arafat opened a drawer in his desk and took out two sheets of paper which he held up to show us. Two pages densely covered with typescript, each paragraph underlined in red, blue, or green. "This is the U.S. proposal put forward at the last meeting. The blue part, which is most of it, is taken entirely from the Israeli document. The red part shows the Americans' ideas. The green part comes from our document. As you can see, it is two and a half lines in all. No, we cannot go forward like this." The PLO chairman was evasive about giving a verdict on the new U.S. Administration. He chose rather to answer that, in his view, what counts is concrete behavior and, with that in mind, he is still waiting for the peace process' main sponsor to show a more unbiased and constructive approach. And he is waiting for Europe. "Europe has shown us a solidarity we will not forget. The EEC has sent us aid; the troika has condemned the sealing of the occupied territories, and the European Parliament has adopted a position in favor of respect for human rights and against the use of firearms on the West Bank and in Gaza. Italy has also helped us a lot. After the

EEC, the most aid comes from Italy." He looked meaningfully at [PLO representative in Italy] Nimr Hammad, who accompanied us and who was translating for us; it looked like an acknowledgment of the heartfelt and intelligent work he has been doing in our country. "But Europe must do more in terms of political and diplomatic initiative. It busies itself so much, and understandably, over Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia. A shared destiny is at stake and we are well aware of that. But how is it possible not to realize that the fate of the Middle East and the Mediterranean also concerns Europe, its security, its economy, and its stability? Europe has closer and much bigger interests there than the United States or Russia, the peace process' two sponsors. If that is the case, it cannot be content to take part in the bilateral talks as an observer; it must call for a change in the formula in order to play an effective role of its own in the peace process." We could only promise to pass on the message.

The inspiration for the last question came to me from the room's decor. The walls were covered with huge posters of Jerusalem. On his left was a picture of the al-Aqsa Mosque, behind him was a blowup of the Dome of the Rock, covering the entire wall. "President, in the almost 20 years we have known each other, we have met in Amman, Damascus, Beirut, Algiers, Cairo, Tunis, Moscow, Beijing, Rome, and Strasbourg: When will we meet in Jerusalem?" Nimr did not even finish his translation. 'Arafat understood immediately and raised his hand showing two fingers. "What do you mean, two years?" To my surprise, he reassured me: "Yes, we will meet in Jerusalem in two years' time!"

## PLO's Qaddumi Comments on Negotiations' Progress

*PM2206142393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 93 p 5*

[Interview with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi by Mahir 'Uthman in Vienna; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Uthman] How would you assess the ninth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations, and what do the Palestinians expect from the current 10th round?

[Qaddumi] The negotiations were expected to achieve fundamental and tangible progress in the first year, as promised by the Americans and their Secretary of State James Baker at the beginning. But regrettably, these numerous rounds have passed without us making any tangible progress. Israel played for time and wanted these negotiations to continue without making any fundamental progress. [passage omitted]

The Arabs met and assessed the rounds, and we agreed that they had achieved nothing and that the cosponsors of the conference should intervene directly to put pressure on Israel to achieve the required progress. Interim self-government was raised, but we have not reached a rule for setting up this interim self-government. In addition, we submitted another paper about the declaration of principles, but Israel emptied this paper of its substance when it submitted another paper that ignored the basic principles on which a settlement should be based. Then the United States submitted a compromise paper that ignored all principles. Because the United States is a cosponsor of the conference, there was disappointment about its submission of this paper.

Promises were made to all the Arab states in the ninth round. There was hope that the United States and the new U.S. Administration, which had announced that it wanted quick progress toward a settlement, would play an effective role to achieve such progress, but it did not. Thus we see Israel announcing one thing and doing another. It is playing for time because it needs time to reform its economy and absorb the emigrants arriving there and in order to acquire the loans promised to it. And Israel is still pushing Europe and the United States in order to acquire the loans promised to it which it has not yet received or of which it has just received a small part.

['Uthman] An agreement was expected to be reached on transitional self-government within a year from the start of the Madrid process, but that did not happen. You spoke about a U.S. bias toward Israel represented in the U.S. compromise paper. Does that not mean that the results sought from these negotiations are now unattainable?

[Qaddumi] The negotiations have not achieved the required progress. However, a long conflict between the Israelis and the Arabs cannot be resolved in a short period of time. In our view, what is happening is a move not toward a settlement, but toward drawing the Middle East map, and it is part of an international settlement to all outstanding regional issues in the world. We do not want to move out of this track and give the United States and Israel the opportunity to draw this map as they wish, especially as the balances of power are now in Israel's favor more than they were in the past.

Furthermore, we have made some achievements in these negotiations or as a result of them. We have deepened Arab coordination and cooperation and built relations among the five Arab parties concerned directly with a settlement. And we now sit with our brothers from inside the territories and participate in this political process as a result of these negotiations.

In addition, we have forced the Israelis to sit down with us to negotiate. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] You have been working in the political sphere for a long time, and although the situation in the Middle East, the peace negotiations have not achieved positive results yet. Is it possible for you to explain how you visualize the required settlement in the Middle East?

[Qaddumi] I said that the settlement will be part of an international settlement of all outstanding regional issues. And that the influential states, first and foremost the United States, wish to solve these problems, because they need political stability in the region to guarantee their interests in the Arab region. They know that their interests cannot be guarantees except by resolving the Palestine issue, that is the Arab-Israeli dispute. Thus it (the United States) is working earnestly—according to its concept and plan—to solve this problem, but in the way it believes serves its and Israel's interests. So a settlement will be difficult and hard, and it will not be easy to achieve in a short period of time unless the other international powers exert pressure on Israel and the United States, especially the European states affected by this dispute in the Middle East region. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] If, for example, progress is made on the Syrian-Israeli track, the Jordanian-Israeli track, or the Lebanese-Israeli track while the Palestinian-Israeli track remains without progress, will you remain assured that the principles of Arab coordination will continue and that there will be no separate settlements?

[Qaddumi] From the outset we have sought to exert efforts for the sake of coordination and cooperation among the Arab parties. We were able to improve our relations with Egypt after the Gulf war and to restore our normal relations with Syria. We began to discuss our common issues in a conscious pan-Arab spirit. I can say that we have achieved a level of coordination and cooperation which the Arab community has never achieved before in its contemporary history. There is awareness of the pressing need for unity, solidarity, cooperation, and coordination. We believe that the five ministers discuss these matters in a good spirit and with open hearts.

In the coordination meetings, especially the recent meeting (in Amman, all the Arab parties said that any progress on any of the other tracks would not be considered progress unless there is progress on the Palestinian track—a pan-Arab solidarity that emerges in the Arab meetings. [passage omitted]

So we can see there is Arab solidarity with the Palestinian issue. And there is no fear at all that a partial settlement might be reached, because we have from the outset agreed that a comprehensive solution is the ideal solution, and without it there would be no solution, and it should begin with the Palestinian issue.

['Uthman] Are there any parallel contacts with the Americans or the Israelis outside the scope of the bilateral negotiations?

[Qaddumi] Some people think that the negotiations are taking their course at the negotiating table only. The current negotiations are calm negotiations, but there are noisy negotiations—that is, the struggle inside the occupied territories. The blockade is a kind of negotiation. Isolating Jerusalem is a kind of negotiation, and so is the Palestinians' war of the knives.

So the negotiations take several courses. What is happening around the negotiating table are calm talks that provide the negotiators with a committee for formulating what is achieved by the other means.

['Uthman] The United States, which is a cosponsor of the negotiations, talks with the negotiating Palestinian delegation. And although it knows that the delegation refers to the PLO to consult with it over everything, it refuses to restore the dialogue officially with the PLO....

[Qaddumi] (Former Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhaq Shamir's basic condition was that negotiations be held with the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. To facilitate the peace process, and in view of the conditions we experienced at that stage, especially because we were besieged politically, we wanted to break this siege and safeguard the intifadah and its historic march, which is considered a foundation for the achievement of our national rights. [passage omitted]

Our brothers the negotiators are part of the PLO. As for our saying that there must be a dialogue with the PLO, if the United States recognizes the PLO, that will mean that it has recognized the existence of a people who have the right to independence and self-determination—which we want. As for the dialogue with the United States, it is direct, because our brother members of the delegation are carrying out this task directly without any mediation. And they met with former President George Bush and former Secretary of State James Baker. As for the dialogue with PLO officials, it means recognition of all the aims advocated by the PLO.

['Uthman] Do you believe that this recognition will take place?

[Qaddumi] Politics is the science of probabilities, and we are fully confident that the Palestinian people will achieve their aims sooner or later. The historic march is moving toward serving the Palestinian issue and eliminating all the dangers that threaten it.

### Paper Calls For U.S. Intervention To Salvage Talks

*TA2206154293 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jun 93 pp 1, 7*

[Editorial: "The Priority Remains A Just Peace"]

[Excerpts] The 10th round of bilateral talks between the Arab parties and Israel resumes its second week today in Washington amid a climate of pessimism and bitterness in the Palestinian side. In the Palestinian-Israeli track, the Palestinian delegation feels that the sponsor of the peace conference, the United States, has not fulfilled its promises to play the role of a full and impartial partner. Instead, it has become clear that the U.S. Administration, with its "impartiality," is trying to peddle the Israeli proposals on self-rule and the transitional stage of a settlement.

Thus, on the eve of the round's second week, there are no signs in the horizon of a possible breakthrough in the negotiations. The Israeli delegation has not presented any new proposals or even answers to the Palestinian questions. The peace process remains bogged down. If the Palestinian delegation is disappointed, the Arab delegations also are showing displeasure at Israel's indecisiveness with regard to making territorial concessions in return for peace treaties with the Arab states.

If the United States has decided to make changes in the major positions supervising the talks by appointing Dennis Ross as responsible for the negotiating tracks and Edward Djerejian as ambassador to Israel, both of whom are known for their broad expertise on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab-Israeli talks since the Madrid peace conference, those moves will not be adequate if they are not accompanied by serious decisions and moves to extricate the talks from impasse. The Palestinian delegation is accusing the United States that its positions on the talks are totally biased in favor of Israel and that this situation will result in destroying any remaining U.S. credibility in the talks. This was affirmed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, in his interview with the London-based MBC Television, when he said that the peace process has lost its credibility and that its track needs to be modified. He warned that the Palestinian people have begun to feel disappointed at developments within the occupied territories and in the negotiations. 'Abd-al-Shafi called on the U.S. Administration to adopt a stance compatible with the bases of the peace process.

Hence, the significance of the U.S. role in advancing the peace process becomes clear. From the outset, all the parties were aware that direct U.S. intervention and pressure on the parties to prevent hardline positions or attempts to turn facts upside down, and maintaining international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions were the beacon guiding all moves. The United States, along with all the parties, realize that this available opportunity for ending the conflict should not be wasted and might not return any time soon. The region's peoples feel scared whenever they sense that the chances of success of this process are becoming slim. The alternative for this process is the continuation of conflict and the ensuing violence, wars, suffering, and disasters. There is no use of accusing this or that party of being intransigent and attempting to impede the peace efforts. The situation is grave and requires direct, honest, and sincere U.S. intervention. [passage omitted]

If it is difficult to solve all the problems in one fell swoop, the priority remains preventing the chances of a comprehensive and just peace of being squandered.

### Al-Rantisi Demands Repatriation of Sick Deportee

*JN2206185093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the struggler deportees stranded in Marj al-Zuhur, has said that the deportees are demanding the repatriation of struggler 'Ali Abu-'Ajwah due to the serious state of his health. He noted that the struggler deportees are not trying to capitalize on the sufferings of their sick brethren, adding that the only thing that concerns them is their repatriation.

Dr. al-Rantisi maintained that the issue regarding how Abu-'Ajwah could be repatriated is to be decided by the Lebanese Government. He stressed that Abu-'Ajwah's health does not leave room for political wagering. He said that this is the only worrying and serious sickness in the camp.

Dr. al-Rantisi pointed out that many deportees require urgent operations, and that a health committee has been set up to examine this issue and to accurately determine the number of sick deportees. He added: What we are demanding is the provision of treatment for sick deportees, not their repatriation. This is because the repatriation of deportees must be collective. This applies to all deportees except Abu-'Ajwah.

## OPEC Affairs

### Kuwait's Stance at OPEC Talks Criticized

*NC1706134893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 93 p 2*

[Editorial: "Kuwait's Unjustifiable Filibustering"]

[Text] The 93rd OPEC meeting drew to a close without arriving at a solution for the OPEC's long-term and strategic issues and without adopting a common stance against tax on energy. The OPEC meet merely dealt with the OPEC oil production ceiling and the determination of the current oil prices.

A debatable point in the recent meet was Kuwait's serious demand for increasing its oil production ceiling to 2 million barrels per day. This was rejected by the OPEC because of the imbalance in the prices and the inadequacy of the market in the year's third quarter.

Kuwait set forth this demand so as to meet the expenses of reconstructing its oil industry and to earn high oil income. With its demand unfulfilled, Kuwait did not even sign the OPEC agreement at the close of the said meet.

The point that could be raised is whether the expenses of reconstruction of Kuwait's war damages are greater than those of Iran. Also why didn't Iran set forth such a demand and why did Kuwait do so in view of the fact that the latter holds rich foreign currency resources, both at home and abroad.

In addition, now that the oil market is unstable, the OPEC countries should harmoniously counter the plots hatched by Western consumer countries who opt for instability in the oil market and should neutralize their ploys, the most important of which is stipulation of tax on energy. When demands such as that of Kuwait are set forth, discussions will focus on less important issues, and this is just what the Western countries long for.

In the past, too, OPEC has been called on to draw up long-term and strategic plans so as to bar the influence of the Western countries. Unfortunately, some countries, advertently or inadvertently, move in tune with the interests of the latter and thus please them.

The oil-consuming countries are cognizant of the vital importance of the oil income for most countries that export their products at any cost. They will, consequently, endeavor to keep the oil price low.

All OPEC members should primarily revere the interests of the majority and should then set forth their demands. Even if their demands are not met, they should respect the rest of the OPEC members. They should not tarnish the OPEC image and should not provide an excuse for the Western countries to deter them.

In point of fact, the interests of each and every OPEC member could be safeguarded in the light of respect for the interests of all members and coordination for the consolidation of the OPEC.

As yet, the issue of observing the OPEC quotas is left unresolved. Some OPEC members produce more than their quotas. This has dramatically affected the unstable oil market and produced the slump in the oil price. Specific measures are, therefore, called for to improve this situation.

## Algeria

### University Professor Stabbed to Death in Algiers

*LD2206124993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Quoting reliable sources, the Algerian news agency has reported that Mohamed Boukhebza, a sociology lecturer, was stabbed to death in Algiers this morning. Other sources have talked about the ugliness of this criminal act saying that the professor was assassinated in front of his two sons who had been tied up to witness the crime.

Professor Mohamed Boukhebza replaced the late Djilali Liabes, who was assassinated last March in Kouba, at the head of the National Institute of Global Strategic Studies.

Professor Boukhebza was a researcher in socioeconomics and occupied several posts, including that of director of the Algerian Society for Demographic, Economic, and Social Research, where he played a prominent role with the publication of several studies on rural agriculture. He also occupied the post of head of department at the presidency before moving on to the National Institute of Global Strategic Studies.

The sociologist Mohamed Boukhebza has published several studies, including a book on the events of October [1988] entitled: "October 1988, Development and Rupture." His assassination today follows that of the late Mahfoud Bousebsi, the pyschiatrist, who was also stabbed to death outside his place of work at Dreid Hocine hospital.

### Government Condemns Assassination

*LD2206201193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] A statement from the prime minister's office says: Terrorism has carried out the most ugly crime with the assassination of Mohamed Boukhobza. With rare bestiality, the killers attacked the victim with cold-steel weapons in front of his family, after they had resorted to the most cowardly method to infiltrate Mohamed Boukhobza's apartment. The assassination of Mr. Boukhobza, an internationally well-known social scientist, the man in charge of the Institute for Global Strategic Studies and member of the Consultative Council, following the assassination of several intellectuals, is a part of the destructive logic which aims at paralyzing intellectual society and destablizing the state by demoralizing its cadres.

The government is certain that Algerian cadres are aware of the role assigned to them in these difficult circumstances through which the country is going and that they will know how to shoulder very clearly and with intent their historic responsibility toward the nation. For its part, the government strongly denounces this vile crime and stresses its will to confront with all means and extreme rigor this terrorist cancer which threatens the future of the country until its final removal. On this painful occasion, the government extends its most sincere condolences to the family of the martyr Mohamed Boukhobza, and affirms its full support and deep sorrow.

### Hamas Leader Comments on Political Climate

*LD2206154393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] With a view to clarifying the position of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on the current issues facing the country and the project to lay a basis for national consensus announced yesterday by the Higher State Council, Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah held a news conference this morning in the Artists and Journalists Club at the headquarters of the national radio station.

At the beginning of his news conference, which was attended by representatives of the national and international media, Cheikh Nahnah said that dialogue was an inevitable necessity to reach safe shores. He noted that dialogue is the best way to foil opportunists' attempts to fish in troubled waters. Moreover, those who refuse and reject dialogue are those who practice terrorism.

The leader of the movement also said that Hamas is not annoyed by the presence of a secular voice on the condition that the proponents are convinced about these ideas and have the ability to present them to the people and convince them.

Regarding his movement's position on the outline of the memorandum issued by the Higher State Council at the end of the dialogue stage, Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah gave our colleague Mourad Madaoui the following reply:

[Begin recording] [Nahnah] First, the dialogue was a demand and now it has become an act. This is important. Second, the dialogue was taking place behind closed doors and now the dialogue is being held at a high level. This is a mark of civilization [as heard]. Third, conclusions must definitely be drawn from the dialogue. The conclusions have come in the form of an outline document. This outline document contains some injustice and some bias, as it mentioned those who did not take part in the dialogue and excluded those who did take part in the dialogue. However, this will not prevent us from continuing the dialogue.

[Madaoui] Do you think that a two- or three-year transitional period will be enough to resume the electoral process?

[Nahnah] The transitional period should have included the period following the break in the electoral process. But as you are well aware, as a result of political tricks the presidential phase will end at the end of 1993 and the transitional phase, which has been termed the temporary phase, will then follow.

In our view, if we have ample time and if the Higher State Council is managing to control the security and political process, why the delay? Especially as the prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, says good work should come swiftly. [Koranic verse] Any delay could generate some trends which would profit those who are waiting to ambush Algeria's unity.

[Madaoui] In other words, the date of the presidential elections must definitely be announced to avoid violence?

[Nahnah] Yes, it is an essential matter and there is no doubt about it. The (?methods used by the) security forces to (?combat) violence have started yielding results of late, and this proves that the sources of this violence have begun to dry up. However, do we let them dry up until drought prevails, or do we have to revive them politically? We would like to see, alongside the security aspect, a political revival, a party revival, and an economic revival. Then we would be able to overcome this difficult period. [end recording]

## Egypt

### Council Nominates Mubarak for Third Term

*NC2206153993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] In its session this morning chaired by Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the Consultative Council unanimously nominated President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for a third term in office.

Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi read out the document of allegiance approved by the council's general committee when it met this morning just before the council session. The document affirmed that since President Mubarak became Egypt's primary leader, he has led the march and kept the country at peace with itself and with others. The document noted that President Mubarak has made Egypt an effective central state in the region, enjoying credibility, respect, a role, and mission, pressing ahead successfully toward development despite the difficulties.

The council session was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and Minister of State for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs Dr. Ahmad Salamah.

### International Press Barred From Political Trials

*NC2206163293 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, June 22 (AFP)—The international press has been barred from attending political trials in Egypt, where Muslim militants have waged war on the government since March 1992, the Foreign Press Centre said Tuesday.

It cited new instructions from the Information Ministry, but there was no official notification of the ban.

Egyptian journalists, unlike colleagues for the foreign press, were granted access to a court in the northern suburb of Medinat Nasr for the trial of the suspected assassins of secular writer Faraj Fudah, killed in June 1992.

The authorities have accused the foreign media of exaggerating the year-long battle with Muslim militants that has killed 165 people, including three foreign tourists.

### Authorities To Control 'All Foreign Mail'

*NC1906130293 Paris AFP in English 1238 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, June 19 (AFP)—The Egyptian authorities have decided to control all foreign mail as part of a crackdown on Muslim fundamentalist unrest, an Interior Ministry official said on Saturday [19 June].

"We have found out that terrorists are receiving instructions to carry out attacks in letters mailed from abroad," the official said.

In May the authorities decided to restrict telephone and telefax links from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Sudan, as part of the campaign to combat Islamic militants.

Egyptian Islamic militant leaders are suspected of living in these countries.

### Al-Azhar Shaykh Denounces Terrorism, Explosions

*NC2006191593 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] The mufti's office has announced that tomorrow, Monday, 21 June, is the first day of the month of Muharram for the year 1414 Hegira.

In a message he issued on this occasion, his eminence Shaykh Jad- al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, grand imam of al-Azhar Mosque, has warned against the propagators of corrupt ideas who consistently confuse matters and claim to be the propagators of ideas of reform. He noted that these people distort the words of God.

His eminence stressed that the terrorism and explosions now in the lands of Islam, which are carried out by its sons at times and by its enemies at others, are only a degradation of this nation's dignity and a debasement of its status, thus tempting others to attack it and kill and repress its sons.

### Police Foil 'New Criminal Attempt,' Arrest 2

*NC2306035793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 June 93 p 1*

[Report by Yusri Shabanah]

[Text] Security service members have foiled a new criminal attempt against the Egyptian people. Two hand grenades ready to go off were discovered in a house belonging to two terrorists in al- Shurabiyah. The two were arrested and are being interrogated at the state's intelligence service building in al-Lazughli to unravel the size of their scheme.

The police operation is part of a program drawn up by the Interior Ministry to monitor suspects' plans inside their homes. Investigation revealed that Muhammad 'Ali Jalal, a polytechnic graduate, and Sayyid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Khalil, an accountant, both 25, were involved in recent explosions in the Governorates of Cairo and al-Jizah.

Security men raided Jalal's house and discovered two steel boxes containing 2 kg of highly explosive TNT and a large quantity of nails. Jalal confessed he planned to use the two grenades in a sabotage operation. The second terrorist admitted helping to assemble the material.

### Policeman's Killer Executed by Hanging

*NC2306104693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0729 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Terrorist Hasan Shihatah, the killer of police martyr Captain 'Ali Khatir, was executed this morning.

A responsible military judicial source told MENA that terrorist Hasan Shihatah was hanged at 0820 today in the Appeal Court prison in Cairo.

### Turkey's Demirel Calls Mubarak To Discuss Bosnia

*NC2206192993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel this evening.

During the conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on several international issues, primarily the situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina and the coordination of positions on the Islamic and international levels to address the deteriorating conditions of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### Official Denies 'Military Intervention' in Hala'ib

*NC2206154793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant to the foreign minister for African affairs, has stated that Egypt believes the Hala'ib issue is a bilateral problem between Egypt and Sudan, noting that the joint committee between the two countries can resolve it.

Rif'at said any attempt to turn it into a regional or international issue is not a move in the right direction and he expressed Egypt's readiness to convene the joint committee at any time on the sidelines of the African summit conference.

Ambassador Rif'at denied that the Sudanese foreign minister presented any documents about Hala'ib to the African ministerial meeting, adding: We have not reached this stage; we hope that together we can resolve the issue. He said no mediation is taking place between the two countries.

Rif'at said there is no Egyptian military intervention [tadakhkhul] in Hala'ib, noting that the border between the two countries is the 22d parallel, with Egypt to the north and a Sudanese area to the south.

### Al-Baz Views Ties With Sudan, Other Issues

*NC2306070393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2214 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stressed Egypt's concern for the interests of the fraternal Sudanese people and affirmed that Egypt will not respond to any provocation designed to harm the eternal relationship between the two nations.

This was reported by Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Relations and National Security Committee, following a three-hour meeting by the committee today that was attended by Dr. al-Baz.

Shihab said the meeting dealt with international, Arab, and African issues, particularly those on the agenda of next Monday's [28 June] OAU summit, in addition to Egypt's role in settling inter-African disputes, the mechanisms of political and economic cooperation among the African states, and the defense of African causes at international meetings.

Shihab said that al-Baz discussed the emerging new world order, international events and their influence on developing nations, Egypt's role in preserving Arab interests and restoring inter-Arab solidarity, and the Damascus Declaration's future role in promoting pan-Arab security in the security, political, and economic spheres.

### Travel to Libya With Identity Cards Still Valid

*NC2006095093 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jun 93 p 7*

[Excerpts] Not a single Egyptian travelling with an identity card was prevented from crossing al-Sallum port of entry. The only new development is that information about travelers leaving the country or arriving is registered on arrival and departure cards as an organizational measure to prevent forgery of identity cards and infiltrations by terrorists. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Ahmad Ramzi, general supervisor of al-Sallum land port of entry, stressed that travel with identity cards has not been canceled. He completely denies reports to this effect. [passage omitted]

### Egypt To Join Southeast African Trade Zone

*NC2206070793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports that as of the beginning of October tariff reductions reaching 60 percent will be introduced for the goods exchanged between Egypt and 24 African countries who are members of the South East African Preferential Trade Area [mantiqat al-tijarah al-tafdiliyah li duwal janub sharq afriqya], following Egypt's decision to join the group.

### Kuwaiti Ambassador Conveys Message to Musa

*NC2206210193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan today.

Afterward, the Kuwaiti ambassador said he conveyed a message from Shaykh Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, containing congratulations on the new Hegira year and on Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU. He said the message is within the framework of Egyptian-Kuwaiti coordination and consultations on political issues according to the Damascus Declaration provisions.

He said his country wants to know the agenda of the African summit in Cairo and said 'Amr Musa explained Egypt's position on various African issues.

On the Damascus Declaration, he said the eight member states will hold contacts to implement its provisions. He said political coordination is under way and economic coordination was discussed at the finance ministers' recent meeting in Doha, adding that there is agreement on security coordination through bilateral ties.

## Libya

### Court Frees 14 Egyptian Fishermen, 3 Held

*NC2206210293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Jun (MENA)—The Libyan Court in Tobruk today released 14 Egyptian fishermen on bail. They were detained in Libya for about a month on charges of entering Libyan territorial water and fishing illegally. Only three people, the pilots of the three boats, remain in custody. Their case is due to be considered on 26 June.

The Egyptian authorities held contacts on the issue with Libyan officials.

### Foreign Secretary Addresses Human Rights Forum

*LD2106091393 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] Vienna, Al-Sayf 20 [20 Jun] (JAMAHIRIA NEWS AGENCY)—'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation, said that the green charter of human rights in the Jamahari era, which had been signed by the basic people's congresses in 1988 consecrates, protects and bans its restriction. He emphasised that the charter was enchanced by the issuing of the freedom of enhancement clause of 1991.

In his speech delivered to the World Human Rights Conference currently being held in Austria, he said that in political liberation of the Great Jamahariyah as a state and as people there is a trend towards the achievement and enhancement of equality between all individuals, insuring their rights, achieving social justice, providing social services [words indistinct] all citizens beginning with the free education, health and instituting a network of social [sentence as received]. Special attention was paid to the disadvantaged especially handicapped women and children.

"Obviously you are aware that the Great Jamahariyah was the one who proposed the [words indistinct] a world year for the handicapped and issued laws to protect them and to ensure that adequate care is provided for them and that they are guaranteed full participation in all walks of life".

He added that the march went on towards the enhancement of human rights and their protection through the declaration of the people's as direct democracy is being practised in the people's congresses which bring together all citizens who practise democracy and freedom by themselves and not through the mediation of anyone [sentence as received]. This also occurs through the participation of workers in production and transforming them into partners.

"I will not stop at all the stations which this march took and I will restrict myself to indicating to the freedom of all political prisoners in 1987 and the demolition of prisons and detention centres and joining international treaties and accords in the area of human rights such as the convention on the banning of torture. [no end quotes, as received]

The international convention for the banning of torture had made a positive assessment towards the [word indistinct] taken by my country to implement the agreement and paid tribute to the efforts exerted by the Libyan judicial system for the harmonisation of domestic laws to match the rules of the treaty.

He stated that following the issuing of the great green human rights charter by the people's congresses in 1988—one of [word indistinct] basic principles is consecrating, protecting and banning the restriction on freedom. The charter abolished all judicial penalties which undermine or degrade humanity of man. It also emphasised the sanctity of life and the need to preserve it [words indistinct] asserted that the objective of society was the abolition of the death penalty. This is in addition to what the charter contains towards the enrichment of human rights through the approval of further rights such as the right to bring up individuals within a tight family unit and the right of man in his production and his toil, be it intellectual, innovative, mental or physical.

A court known as the people's court had also been established. It is the court handling freedom, human rights and their protection.

He indicated that, in 1991, the people's congresses later issued the rules of implementation for the green charter which is the law of the enhancement of freedom.

The march to enrich human rights and protect them is progressing ahead but there some hurdles have been encountered in addition to the loathsome hierachy of the colonial which subjected the Great Jamahariyah to pressures, politically and economically and military aggressions and continued threats with aggression reaching its zenith through the fabrication of the so-called Lockerbie crisis. This was accompanied by a vicious media campaign to distort and undermine the Great Jamhariyah. Everyone is sure this is just a form of justification for the form of domination and the practise of imposing policies to achieve selfish gains in the name of international legitimacy, which became like an axe raised against the small, defenceless nations. But the powers of the well protected are above legitimacy and above the law.

## Sudan

### Government Orders Closure of 2 Egyptian Consulates

*NC2206162693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Jun (MENA)—The Sudanese Government has decided to close the Egyptian Consulates in Port Sudan and al-Abyad and has informed its ambassador in Cairo to take immediate measures to close the two Sudanese Consulates in Alexandria and Aswan in Egypt.

'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first under secretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, said the Sudanese Government has decided to revoke a decision ratifying the opening of Egyptian Consulates in Port Sudan and al-Abyad. The Foreign Ministry asked the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum to take the necessary measures to close these consulates and terminate their operations within a week from today.

He said the Foreign Ministry asked the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo to take the necessary steps to close the Sudanese Consulates in Aswan and Alexandria immediately. Baridu, who was speaking at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry's regular press meeting, claimed that the Egyptian consulates in Port Sudan and al-Abyad were engaged in activity incompatible with the Vienna Convention.

### Foreign Minister on Hala'ib Issue, Ties With Egypt

*NC2206203293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih has said he hopes the Hala'ib issue between Egypt and Sudan will be resolved peacefully.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the Sudanese minister said many African ministers have asked that Hala'ib not be included on the agenda of the OAU's ministerial meeting. He said this means the two sides' relations should return to normal to discuss the problems through technical or political committees and hold bilateral meetings on every level, including between the two countries' leaders.

The Sudanese foreign minister said exchanges took place among many African ministers on the sidelines of the OAU ministerial meetings. The ministers expressed their desire to make every effort to restore bilateral dialogue and prepare the appropriate atmosphere for it.

The Sudanese official said: We believe the solution should have been left for legal and technical experts. He added that Sudan will accept any conclusion the experts might reach, whether they decide the Hala'ib triangle belongs to Egypt or Sudan.

The Sudanese minister insisted the two sides should reach an understanding and return to the situation that existed before October 1992 without discussing withdrawal or anything else. This will create the opportunity for the technical committee to begin its work, perhaps with greater jurisdiction, Abu-Salih added.

Minister Abu-Salih said the dialogue between Egypt and Sudan has not halted and noted that the meetings between the two sides are continuing. He said they held meetings in Addis Ababa and Cairo. Several meetings were also held with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa over the past two days, the Sudanese minister said.

On the Sudanese decision to close two Egyptian Consulates in Port Sudan and al-Abyad, the Sudanese foreign minister declined to comment on the decision, which appeared to have surprised him. He asked for time to refer to his embassy in Cairo to clarify the situation.

He said he was confident in the special eternal relations between Egypt and Sudan and noted that problems between brothers should be resolved by brotherly means.

He said he hoped "a happy development concerning the two countries will occur in the next 48 hours, as an example of Egypt's leadership of the African continent at this stage, while it discusses the Hala'ib issue."

He explained that Sudan did not participate in the meetings of the Egyptian-Sudanese Joint Committee to discuss Hala'ib, because the committee decided to keep things as they are until it completes its work according to the time it needs, which could be over a year.

He denied knowing about reports on Sudan leasing one of its ports to Iran or on a visit by Iranian naval vessels to Sudan.

On Sudan's negotiations with the south, he said they should have taken place in Abuja, but broke up because of elections in Nigeria. They will resume after the elections, he added.

### Egyptian, Israeli Experts Reportedly in Hala'ib

*EA2206155093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Our correspondent in the Jordanian capital, Amman, has learned that the Egyptian authorities have recently brought some foreign experts, including Israelis, into Hala'ib, within the framework of a plan they intend to implement in the governorate. Our correspondent, quoting Jordanian newspapers published yesterday, said that a group of Israeli and Egyptian experts arrived in Hala'ib in two buses, one blue and the other coffee-colored. The group stopped at the Egyptian Military Command at Abu Ramad near the office of Major General Samir Yunis, commander of the Egyptian occupation forces in Hala'ib Governorate.

Our correspondent added that the Jordanian newspaper AL-MUHARRIR had published a report that quoted Radio Moscow as saying that the Egyptian authorities had earlier asked NATO countries to help them destroy what they called terrorism in upper Egypt and that three of these countries had responded to the request.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian authorities have spoken more than once about what they call terrorists infiltrating their southern borders. However, the Egyptian authorities have not succeeded in arresting a single infiltrator to support their claims.

### SUNA Team Refused Entry Into Hala'ib

*EA2206213093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Jun (SUNA)—The Egyptian forces stationed at the 22nd parallel north have refused a SUNA team entry to Hala'ib despite the fact that the team had waited for 15 hours near the gate established by the Egyptian forces and also in the (Awsif), which is about 20 km from Hala'ib. During this waiting period negotiations were going on between the SUNA team and the Egyptian forces (?controlling) the gate, during which appeared [words indistinct] that they were awaiting orders from high authorities to allow the SUNA team to enter the Hala'ib.

At the gate an Egyptian officer with the rank of second lieutenant said that other measures would be taken after the recent entry of a convoy of people's unions and associations.

### Al-Bashir Discusses Domestic, Regional Issues

*PM2206133593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 93 p 6*

[Interview with President Lieutenant 'Umar al-Bashir by 'Umar al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hasan] What has been achieved so far in relation to the political and constitutional structure in Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] We have made great strides with the proposed political system. We have set up the basic congresses, local popular councils, and the provincial congresses. And we are about to convene the provincial congresses, from which representatives will be chosen for the federal provincial council. The election of the council will be preceded by the sector congresses, which include four sectors: the youth congress, the judicial congress, the economic congress, and the student congress. Then elections would begin in the geographical constituencies to complete the provincial congresses. We expect all this to be implemented in the course of next year.

Then the national sector congresses would be convened. There are eight of them: the economic, social, student, women's, diplomatic, administration, judicial, and security and defense sectors. That step will be followed by the convening of the national conference, which will choose members of the elected National Assembly (parliament), whose membership will be completed through elections in the geographical constituencies throughout Sudan. The process of building the new political system will be completed in 1995.

[Al-Hasan] The Council of Ministers has approved the press and publications law, which allows the publication of independent newspapers. The law is now being discussed in the Transitional National Assembly (provisional parliament). Will the number of independent newspapers be limited, and when will the new law be put into effect?

[Al-Bashir] The mere approval of the law by the Council of Ministers means the government approves of it. After the National Assembly's endorsement it will be signed by the head of state so it can be put into effect. All these are just procedures, after which independent newspapers will be given permission to publish. [passage omitted]

The law does not specify the number of independent newspapers to be given permission to publish. But we have in mind the previous experience, because it was among the direct reasons for the failure of the democratic experiment. This is why we have drawn up rules that ensure for us the existence of a free press. But there is a difference between freedom and chaos.

[Al-Hasan] Will the third round of negotiations in Abuja be held on the scheduled date (19 Jun), given that we have noted the absence of the preparations which usually precede such meetings?

[Al-Bashir] There is an agreement to hold the third Abuja round. The time was set and agreed. But we appreciate the conditions that the brothers in Nigeria have experienced as a result of the presidential elections. We are in touch with them to confirm the possibility of its being held. We also have in mind the upcoming African summit, which will keep the Nigerian president and his foreign minister preoccupied. However, we are willing to hold the third round on any date they set.

[Al-Hasan] What about developments after the agreement concluded in Nairobi between the government and the united factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement?

[Al-Bashir] There is nothing new in that connection. And we are currently assessing what was achieved in Nairobi and considering the next step. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] What about the envoy appointed by United Nations to observe relief operations in the south? Do you welcome the idea, and have you received a reply to the letter you sent to the United Nations in this connection?

[Al-Bashir] The observer was not chosen in consultation with us. We are not opposed to the presence of a UN coordinator for relief operations, because the agreement was concluded in the first place among three parties: the government, the rebels, and the United Nations. And the only quarter capable of coordinating between us and the rebels is the United Nations. But failure to consult with us caused us to doubt the envoy's mission, in addition to what foreign media services have reported about this mission, because they have shown that the human rights issue is just a smokescreen. Add to this the fact that the envoy began his duties by visiting Nigeria and the states neighboring Sudan. Of course, Nigeria has nothing to do with the relief work issue, nor have the neighboring states anything to do with it, because the issue is Sudanese. All this caused us to doubt the envoy's real mission. This is why we voiced reservations about him and wrote the UN secretary general, and we received an inadequate reply from him. So we are not obliged to cooperate with him, nor will we cooperate with him. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] Did Egyptian intervention really take place in the Wadi Halfa bulge, as with the Hala'ib triangle?

[Al-Bashir] Yes, the scenario implemented in Hala'ib has been repeated in the Wadi Halfa bulge. The issue goes back to the days of former President (Ja'far) Numayri when the two countries agreed to set up observation points around al-Nubah lake in north Wadi Halfa inside the Sudanese border to observe and protect the High Dam against any possible infiltration by Libya. But these forces have recently been reinforced by other forces. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] Are there endeavors to unite the Arabs, especially after the appeal made by United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, urging that Arab differences be transcended?

[Al-Bashir] I welcomed His Highness Shaykh Zayid's statements on the grounds that they represent our line and correspond to our aspirations, because we always aim to achieve the unity of Arab ranks. And we are well aware of the effects of fragmentation on the Arab world. So we were pleased with His Highness Shaykh Zayid's statements. We were also pleased with the state of accord which emerged at the Arab League and the Arab foreign ministers' recent conference. The same approach emerged during the Islamic states' conference. All these are positive indications that have reduced the severity of the tension. And we hope that this approach will develop and achieve its positive results soon, God willing. We were also pleased with the Arab media services, as they truthfully reflected the elimination of the severity of the tension in Arab relations.

[Al-Hasan] What about relations with Egypt?

[Al-Bashir] There is nothing new. They always try to impose a status quo by their intervention in the Hala'ib triangle and the Wadi Halfa bulge. Then they say: We will not engage in a war with Sudan. But Egypt sent its forces to interfere in these areas and continues to reinforce them. It is we who do not wish to engage in a war with Egypt and hope that a peaceful solution to the Hala'ib problem will be achieved soon.

[Al-Hasan] What about relations with Tunisia and Algeria?

[Al-Bashir] We sought to improve relations with them. That was done through the visit of Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih (Sudanese deputy vice president) when he attended the Arab interior ministers' meetings held in Tunis last year. A frank conversation took place between him and Tunisian officials. All accusations were raised, and the Tunisian brothers sent us a file on our countries' relations, to which we replied.

As for Algeria, we sent Maj. Gen. al-Tijani Adam Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council, there. He met with brother President Ali Kafi and a number of officials there. They did not provide any clear evidence to convict Sudan. All they said was attributed to other media services. And after they agreed to exchange delegations between the two countries, we were surprised by the decision to withdraw their ambassador in Khartoum. At any rate, we have ascertained that there are hidden hands tampering with relations between us and these two fraternal countries.

### Ummah Party Leader on Regime's 'Death Throes'

*PM2206103393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 93 p 3*

[Interview with Dr. 'Umar Nur-al-Da'im, secretary general of the Ummah Party, by Kamal Hamid in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hamid] As the opposition based abroad, how would you assess the achievements of the National Salvation Revolution government, which will complete its fourth year in office in a few days?

[Nur-al-Da'im] Regrettably, the government has not made a single achievement despite favorable conditions which gave it the opportunity to implement its programs and decisions. Its failure is clear at the economic, political, and Islamic levels. At the economic level, the exchange rate is now 225 pounds to the dollar. On the morning of the coup it was 4.5 pounds to the dollar. The level of economic deterioration can be judged on that basis. At the political level, the government has failed to achieve peace and to solve the problem of the south. In fact it has complicated the problem even further and pushed the country to the verge of foreign intervention because of its human rights violations and the failure to deliver relief supplies to those affected by the war. This is in addition to spreading sedition and escalating the fighting among tribes in southern Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] You speak about the government's failure to achieve peace, but peace was not achieved when you were in power either.

[Nur-al-Da'im] No, we were close to peace. A constitutional conference was held in September 1989, and the delegations were on their way to Addis Ababa to prepare for that. But the sinister coup took place 30 June. The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement received unlimited support from the communist-socialist camp and the Aden pact and adopted unionist, non-separatist orientations. Despite that, we held a dialogue with it—which caused it to move toward democracy, especially after it saw world communism collapsing. The sad thing is that the (John) Garang movement has realized the international changes, but the National Islamic Front government has not. The latter is working to perpetuate dictatorship. In the recent Abuja negotiations, it made an offer to Garang's movement to divide north and south Sudan between them on the basis of the establishment of two dictatorial governments. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] In the name of its leader, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Ummah Party proposed that Sudan's problems be solved on a peaceful, democratic, and national basis. How can that be achieved with the opposition's increasing activities and the accusation that you resort to violence?

[Nur-al-Da'im] We still maintain our declared line, that is, the peaceful, democratic, and national solution. And we will not resort to the military solution, despite our ability to implement it, because we do not want our country to be fragmented or to swim in seas of blood. We will maintain self-restraint because of our confidence in the Sudanese people, who have experience of removing military dictatorships through civilian jihad and without any need to resort to violence, of which they accuse us falsely and without any evidence. Otherwise let the regime announce the whereabouts of the camps belonging to the Ummah Party or the other opposition political forces. Let the regime be assured that we will not confront it militarily. We are content with its economic, political, and diplomatic failure and its bad reputation with regard to human rights and the sheltering of terrorists. As far as we are concerned, the regime is completely finished because it has failed to provide a dignified life for the citizens, thus abandoning its most basic responsibility. We declare and reiterate that we will not cause our country to enter another civil war. We will conduct political opposition, both inside and outside the country. And we will work to impose further isolation on this regime. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] You are also accused of appealing for foreign intervention in Sudan.

[Nur-al-Da'im] We are amazed that this should come from a regime which makes accusations and claim to be representing the Sudanese people although it lacks legitimacy. The people did not elect it, unlike the previous free parliamentary elections. We are more patriotic, and we represent the majority in Sudan. As for the fear of foreign intervention, the nature of the regime encourages that. Suffice it to say that the present government is watched by several quarters. And two people—a Hungarian and an Italian—have been appointed to submit reports to the international community on the regime's excesses in the human rights field and with regard to the delivery of relief supplies to those affected in the south. The foreign intervention which took place in Somalia was the result of a civil war and the fighting among tribes, and that is what this government is working to escalate. We hope that the regime will rectify matters before it is too late. We also draw world attention to the illegitimacy of this government and to the fact that the Sudanese people are not bound by any agreement or pledge signed by the regime, which is in its death throes.

## Tunisia

### Ben Ali Addresses European Parliament 22 Jun

*LD2206205793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Address by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 22 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Mr. President, honorable parliamentarians, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like first to express my happiness at being here today, at the magnanimity of this venerable forum which embodies the meaning of will and sovereignty and free choice—the parliament of the people of the European community.

I extend to President Egon Klepsch my sincere thanks for his pleasant invitation which has given me this chance to address you. [passage omitted]

I would also like to extend through you the greetings of the Tunisian people to the friendly European people. Mr. President, honorable members of parliament, some of you know my country but you all hear of it either a little or a lot. The means of communication have eliminated the need to move or travel around to learn about people's conditions and countries.

However, direct contact and live interaction between people is much better than communication from a distance, or through human or media mediators.

That is why I have gratefully chosen to accept the invitation of the president of your respectable forum to talk to you about Tunisia in its new era, its choices and conceptions, its stand today toward all issues and current causes.

Ladies and gentlemen. Out of our belief that this era is one of liberty, democracy, and human rights, we have been endeavoring since 7 November 1987 to consolidate the pillars of the state of law and institutions. We started off by abolishing special judicial bodies and issuing a general legislative pardon. We have also achieved national reconciliation between all political and social sides, which became evident in the signing of a national charter which embodied the contribution of all the active sides in the national arena. It defines values and behavior and controls the framework of these sides' actions without affecting common gains or harming the natural process of honest political rivalry.

We have also enacted laws pertaining to the organization of parties. We are now about to revise the electoral code with a view to providing definite opportunities to all the political sides to enable them to contribute with their efforts, based on the broadness of their popular bases, in national political life. Meanwhile, we have been working toward the creation of associations and strengthening their role in civil society, and supporting the freedom of the press.

We regard the gains realized for the Tunisian woman worthy of being highlighted at the level of the Arab and Islamic world. The place she has been occupying in all civil, political, and social spheres deservedly qualifies her to participate effectively in public affairs and national life.

As a contribution toward the consolidating of international trends in the sphere of human rights, Tunisia unreservedly endorsed the agreement on combating torture and the agreement on the protection of children. It has also announced its acceptance of Chapter 41 of the International Charter on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. President, honorable deputies. We would like to stress that we are eager to consecrate and bolster human rights as a conviction and culture and in daily practice. Democracy is a civilized behavior that stems from assuming responsibility and is based on the principle of participation in accordance with the moral values acknowledged in that sphere. [passage omitted]

We believe there can be no democracy without development and no development without democracy. Neither can stand without the other. Out of our belief in the credibility and usefulness of such an equation, we have acted in such a way as to make our concept of human rights broad enough to encompass political, human, and civil rights as internationally recognized, and also the individual's economic, educational, social, and cultural rights. [passage omitted]

Out of our conviction that economic efficiency, social equilibrium, and progress in all fields depend on the human factor, we also focused our efforts on the development of human resources by adopting an educational reform which introduced the fundamental school in order to guarantee a minimum common level of learning. Thus the rising generations will be brought up to respect the values of science and work and to open up to the world and to be tolerant. In the social field, we reinforced the health aspect and safety at work and guaranteed the workers' rights and social cover. We also revived the values of national solidarity and social cohesion by caring for the weak sections of society and the deprived regions of the country.

Thanks to these integral reforms, it was possible to achieve encouraging results with regard to the rate of economic growth, the balance of public treasury, the climate of security and stability, and social progress.

However, we consider that these results are below the expectations of our people, who are aware of the difficult internal and external circumstances they have been through lately. The people are also aware that their revival, which started with the intellectual reformist movement at the end of the last century, was not supported by an industrial revolution or the benefits of an economic expansion. On the contrary, our country came out of the Middle Ages to be confronted with colonial rule, and even when it became independent, the one-party system, which lasted 30 years, was an obstacle to its desired progress.

Out of our loyalty to our fundamental choices and out of our faith in the results we have achieved and our hope to continuously develop them, we are determined to proceed with the political, economic, and social reforms which we have embarked upon in order to build a civil society, provide further efficiency to our economy, and secure prosperity, tranquillity, and stability for our citizens by relying first on ourselves and on a good utilization of our own resources and national talents, with the help of our brethren and friends and relying on their understanding of the requirements of the phase we are going through and on their good cooperation with us.

Mr. President, honorable deputies: Mankind today is fully aware of the importance of the emergence of economic groupings through which it would achieve its objectives for development and progress. Since the Arab Maghreb is our natural space, we have and are still working with our brethren, the leaders of the Maghreb states, to create an economic grouping in the region. We have contributed with constant determination to the building of this economic and social space which is deep-rooted in history and which aspires to a better future and whose land was and still is a civilizational bridge which links us with Europe, a crossing point between east and west and between north and south, and also a meeting point for civilizations. If four years in the history of rapprochement among peoples and the birth of groupings do not constitute a long time span to assess the progress achieved so far in the building of the Maghreb Union, it can be said that the most important gain we have made is this firm belief in the inevitability of the unionist edifice despite the circumstances, which have not always been favorable.

Tunisia, which now assumes the rotating presidency of the Union, is intent on doing all that it can, in cooperation with the sister Maghreb states, to proceed along the road of achievement and a qualitative start of our march after the installation of structures and institutions, the drawing up of programs, and the creation of the legal frameworks have been achieved in the past four years. We are also very eager to consolidate the relations of the Maghreb Union with the other groupings, especially the EC, and to give an impetus to the dialogue between the states overlooking the Mediterranean, in the hope that this dialogue will enable the opening of new scope for the consolidation of comprehensive cooperation between the Union and the EC, thus serving the interest of all and enabling the stimulation of the Arab-European dialogue.

Mr. President, distinguished deputies, the relations of the Arab Maghreb with the EC, which we want to develop today in consolidation of the bonds of neighborliness and common history, and in line with the new international context, especially in the wake of the advanced steps achieved by the unity of Europe, call for the submission of alternative visions to what exists today, so as to give these relations a new dimension by striving to intensify cooperation, for the achievement of progress and scientific and industrial advancement.

Tunisia follows with great interest the setting up of the unified European edifice and pays special attention to the scope for its relations with this group, with whom, in parallel with sisterly Morocco, it has begun exploratory sessions on the scope for the development of relations between the two sides. Tunisia hopes that this dialogue will lead to the signing of a partnership agreement, including the creation of a free exchange zone that responds to our aspirations within the framework of the building up of a Maghreban- European economic and democratic expanse, within the context of a comprehensive vision that takes into consideration our interwoven interests and our linked fate.

We have already appealed to the EC and the member countries to maintain and develop the mutual interests of the two sides within the context of common development. We pointed, within this context, to the need to deal with the position of indebtedness of the Arab Maghreb countries to Europe and proposed using those debts, or part of them at least, in financing some projects for combating pollution, preserving the environment, promoting vocational training, and undertaking productive projects. We also called for the invention of new financial cooperation instruments, such as the creation of a European-Maghreban development bank.

As regards the issue of immigration and the status of the Maghreban community in Europe, we believe that the temporary partial solutions, the measures and administrative arrangements cannot be a drastic solution to the issue of immigration. The best means of controlling this phenomenon is the further consolidation of development in the countries of origin, to create jobs by intensifying and diversifying investments and securing external markets for their output through formulating a new system of labor division, thus facilitating the achievement of integration between the productive sector and the services sector, and facilitating the desired economic and industrial restructuring in these two regions.

On this occasion, I reiterate our proposal for concluding a Maghreban-European treaty to act as a framework for safeguarding the rights of the Maghreban community in Europe and for determining its duties. By complementing each other's initiatives, we can eradicate the causes of extremism, fanaticism, and racism on both sides, and build strong relations based on cooperation and understanding.

The immense challenges facing both shores of the Mediterranean in various fields make it imperative that we adopt a realistic and bold approach in dealing with them. If democracy is a new criterion for international and regional dealings, openness and interaction between nations and blocs are a criterion for the human nature of development and for the civilized nature of inter-state relations. There can be no real human development and no durable security for humanity while parts of it languish under the yoke of under-development, indebtedness, and penury. For that reason, we believe that the two sides have no interest in the EC being a closed fortress surrounded with a belt to the south. The EC offers East Europe money, possibilities, and partnership in order to prepare it for a market economy and for democracy. Similar offers to countries of the Maghreb could help further democracy and development.

We also believe it is time we went beyond the phase of thinking and perusing and entered the phase of implementation in order to lay down new relations of cooperation in step with the domestic and foreign challenges facing both communities.

I take advantage of this opportunity to call for convening a conference on development in the countries of the Maghreb in order to achieve progress and solidarity and to put in place mechanisms of cooperation based on political, economic, social, and cultural partnership between the two communities. That should act as a springboard in order that the whole southern shore of the Mediterranean may be encompassed. In that way, the scope of democracy and development would be enlarged throughout the southern region. Consolidation of trust and mutual interests requires those elements so as to extend the Helsinki security and cooperation agreement to relations between the northern and the southern Mediterranean. [passage omitted]

Tunisia, which spares no effort to entrench the pillars of security, peace and detente, believes that the raising of the banner of human rights, freedom, and democracy being witnessed by the world requires that an end be put to all forms of injustice and discrimination and that the peoples be enabled to decide their own fate and recover all their rights; first of all, the Palestinian people, who have been subjected to a long-standing injustice. Tunisia, which has continuously supported the struggle of this people and attended the peace conference, was included in the delegation of the Arab Maghreb Union, and took part in the various rounds of the multilateral talks, Tunisia lauds the honorable positions of your venerable council in this respect, and the important role played by the EEC. Tunisia urges the international community, especially the states sponsoring the peace conference, to make Israel stop the building of settlements and provocative practices, and deal seriously with the peace process. The peace sought in the region will only last if international legality is observed, if UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are carried out in all the Arab occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, and if the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are realized: to return, to exercise self-determination, and to set up their own independent state.

We should not omit to express our deep concern over the situation prevailing in some regions of former Yugoslavia, which requires firm and quick intervention so as to put an end to the policy of repression and ethnic cleansing which the Serb side is still practicing against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the repeated violations by te Serb side of the UN Security Council resolutions, and its continuous ignoring of the calls of the international community. These resolutions and calls have proven insufficient, regrettably, to stop the war and repel the aggression. No doubt, Europe has a great responsibility regarding this aggression which is destroying a European country and a European people, and constitutes a grave precedent where lofty principles and values are being trampled under foot without deterrent. It is very likely that this aggression will extend to beyond Bosnia-Herzegovina, to the countries and peoples of the region, a matter that will be a threat to international security and peace, and which will deepen the feeling that a double-standard policy is being practiced, and that international criteria are different when it comes to tackling conflicts. The extinguishing of the hotbeds of tension, and seeing nations and peoples devote themselves to what serves their development and growth are the strongest rules on which we should build the edifice of the new world order so as to realize security, peace and progress for all.

Tunisia, which remains as it has been throughout history a country of compassion, openness, moderation, compromise, endeavor, and work, aspires to be an instrument of contact and good offices between the two neighboring communities with the aim of establishing a continuous and useful dialogue that will promote rapprochement, understanding, cooperation, solidarity, and true historical reconciliation, in the hope that the old world's heart will start beating again and its form be rejuvenated in this small village which is today's world. It will feed from the veins of this big heart and flourish on its abundant gifts over centuries, and the bases of a new world order will rise on its shoulders: moderation, justice, security, and safety.

Mr. President, honorable deputies, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me at the end of my speech to extend again my sincere thanks, appreciation, and wishes for continued success in your noble tasks. I would like to stress to you our strong eagerness to bolster the relations of cooperation and friendship between our countries and peoples. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

### Draft Laws on Language, Sex Discrimination Approved

*LD2206224493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies held a public meeting under the chairmanship of chamber President Habib Boulares, which was also attended by members of the government. The meeting debated two draft laws. The first concerns the publication of texts in the official gazette of the Republic of Tunisia and their coming into effect, and the second concerns endorsing a trade agreement between the Tunisian and Romanian governments.

Regarding the first draft law, an explanation of reasons points out that a year and a half after the establishment of French protection in Tunisia, an order was issued stipulating that texts of laws must be published officially in the Arabic and French languages, thus confirming duality in the sphere of language. During the explanation it was said that the draft law submitted to deputies today proposed that things should be set right and that the hole in the edifice of national sovereignty should be filled, since the conditions for setting things right are provided by the 7th November Movement, among the principles of which is to reinstate the prestige of the constituent elements of Tunisia's Arab identity.

After debating the draft law and hearing the reply of government Secretary-General Ridha Grira, the chamber endorsed the draft law.

The chamber then heard a report on a draft law concerning the endorsement of a trade agreement between the governments of the Republic of Tunisia and the Republic of Romania. This draft law was endorsed.

At the beginning of the session the chamber endorsed two draft laws which were debated during Tuesday's session. The first concerns the setting up of a fund for alimony and divorce procedures, and the second concerns amending the labor code with regard to nondiscrimination between the two sexes.

## Bahrain

### Foreign Minister Meets U.S. Officials in Washington

*JN2206164593 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Manama, June 22 (GNA)—The Bahraini Foreign Minister, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, received in Washington last night the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, David Mack, and his successor Miss Toni G. Verstandig, who was also former staff member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives.

The meeting discussed preparations for meetings to be held by Shaykh Muhammad with senior officials at the U.S. Administration.

The Bahraini minister also met with other American figures during which they reviewed Bahraini-U.S. relations.

Shaykh Muhammad arrived in Washington from London last Sunday.

He is expected to meet with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary of Defence Les Aspin, the U.S. Assistant President [as received] for National Security Affairs Anthony Lake, the Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Congress Lee Hamilton and other U.S. officials.

## Kuwait

### Information Minister Holds News Conference 21 Jun

*LD2206123693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0847 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpts] Doha, 22 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah stressed that the continuing existence of the Iraqi regime still poses a threat to all the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and not only Kuwait.

He explained at a news conference he held here last night that the Iraqi threats still continue. They have never stopped despite the cease-fire agreement after the Kuwaiti war of liberation. He noted the repeated border incursions which Iraq has committed from time to time and pointed out that its media mouthpieces continue to reiterate claims against Kuwait and the rest of the GCC states. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti information minister asserted that the responsibility for the split in the Arab ranks falls on the states that supported the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and that those states should mend their attitudes if they want to restore the solidarity of the Arab states, which they have destroyed.

He added that these states should hasten to support the major issues which have resulted from the Iraqi aggression, namely to apply pressure on Iraq to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, especially the ones that concern the issue of the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, the release of the POW's and hostages, and compensation for the losses that were suffered by Kuwait and the other GCC states as a result of the Iraqi occupation. [passage omitted]

He affirmed that Kuwait does not stand in the way of restoring Arab relations, which were shattered by the Iraqi occupation and by the states which supported the aggression. He, however, explained that the Kuwaiti wound is not simple. It is deep in the heart of every Kuwaiti. Therefore, Kuwait cannot accept that the change should be quick lest Kuwait might fall prey again to the tricks of politics. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah also referred in his news conference to the material carried by some Arab states and their continuing attacks on Kuwait and the GCC states. He said he is convinced that there are no signs of a change in the attitudes of some media organs in their support for the Iraqi regime. In this connection he said that the Jordanian press has been even worse than the Iraqi media. He said that the Jordanian king's accusation against the press in Jordan of being hired pens has underlined our opinion of it.

On the Kuwaiti Government's stance toward the Iraqi opposition, Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah noted that this opposition is regarded an important element that deserves to be supported. However, he expressed the hope to see a united opposition that could have some weight inside Iraq so that it can confront the ruling regime there. He also stressed the importance of seeing a clear and definite stance by the Iraqi opposition toward the question of the UN Security Council resolution on the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border in its final form.

He explained that some of the Iraqi opposition believes that discussing the question of the demarcation of the border between the two countries should take place after the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. He affirmed that Kuwait does not accept discussion or negotiation over this matter after the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution on this matter. He added: "We wish the Iraqi people well." He hoped that the Iraqis reciprocate this feeling with the Kuwaitis.

About the security situation in Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah affirmed that this matter still needs more time for it to reach the desired state of stability. He pointed out that Kuwait is still suffering from the fifth column in its midst and from the Iraqi intelligence remnants who try to instigate sabotage activity inside Kuwait. [passage omitted] Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah denied the existence of political detainees in Kuwait. He explained that those who have been arrested were elements who collaborated with the Iraqi occupation authorities during the occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The information minister stressed that he does not bar any Arab or foreign newspapers from entering Kuwait, even those that have criticized Kuwait. He clarified, however, that the newspapers that have been banned from entering Kuwait had been abusing some Arab Gulf states directly. He stressed that Kuwait rejects this and will not allow it.

He also referred to the importance of respecting the Kuwaiti press and what is written in it as it enjoys press freedom which has been guaranteed by the Constitution. The government cannot dictate to it any particular direction no matter what it may think about what is written in this press. Shaykh Sa'ud expressed his view that the Kuwaiti press has been shouldering its role in defending Kuwaiti and GCC causes. [passage omitted]

### Tunisia's Ben Yahya 'Forced' To Cut Visit Short

*PM2306082993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 93 pp 1, 4*

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Ben Yahya Cut His Visit Short, Regrets Vehement Criticism Campaign"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—The efforts made to open a new page between Kuwait and the "hostile states" suffered a big setback yesterday when Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya was forced under unusual parliamentary and media pressure to cut short his visit to Kuwait and to defer until another time the process of normalizing relations.

Similar endeavors had been made to normalize relations between Kuwait and Yemen, but they suffered the same fate last week following the failure to hold the meeting agreed between the two countries' foreign ministers in Vienna. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said there that his country was in no rush for reconciliation with the states which supported the invasion.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya expressed his regret for the criticism campaign and the attack that accompanied his visit to Kuwait, stressing that Tunisia's position on the invasion "is registered in the minutes of the Arab League meetings for anyone who wants to know about it."

Although Ben Yahya emphasized that he was not surprised by this situation in a country in which freedom of the press exists, he admitted that he had been hurt when he saw the Kuwaiti newspapers attack him in such a manner. He said: "Maybe these reactions are the result of political pluralism." [passage omitted]

### Paper Says Ben Yahya Unwelcome

*JN2206170793 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 1*

[Editorial: "You Are Not Welcome"]

[Text] People who are plagued by forgetfulness are people without memory or history. As for us, as Kuwaitis, we are not forgetful, nor do we want to be. Nor, for that matter, will we allow ourselves to be.

If some, including the Tunisian foreign minister, who will arrive in Kuwait today, believe or hope that we could forget about their country's disgraceful stands in support of the criminal Iraqi occupation of our country, we would like to address them in the clearest manner, evoking Kuwaiti rights, which are a synonym of fairness, saying: You are harboring delusions. You have become so deluded that you are no longer in touch with reality or common sense.

O Tunisian foreign minister: The liberated chaste Kuwaiti territory, on which you will set foot today, is the very territory whose occupation by the sinful Iraqi occupiers you applauded and glorified. While the sinful Iraqi occupiers were invading this territory, using their covetous armies, and robbing its people of their freedom, sovereignty, and legitimacy, you were rejoicing at our misfortune.

You might have forgotten that. Or you might claim amnesia. However, Tunisian leaders were among the conspirators who supported injustice and wrongdoers, and lent deaf ears to the throes of martyrs, the agony of tortured people, and the pain of the oppressed Kuwaiti men, women, and children, who were suffering from oppression, repression, and criminal torture. While all this was going on, you were staging demonstrations in blind support of the Iraqi tyrant, thus denying our people their right to freedom and to resist criminal occupiers, and disavowing their persistent endeavors to liberate their territory and regain their sovereignty.

Your feeble memory might have failed you, O Tunisian minister. It might have made you forget the disgraceful and shameful stands your country adopted toward clear Kuwaiti rights. So, we would like to remind you that your own president refused to attend the Cairo Arab summit, because he did not want our country to be liberated. Because he wanted to share with sinful and tyrannical Iraq the booty of the heinous and criminal war it waged against our homeland and people. All this was meant to be achieved at the expense of our homeland and people—at the expense of Kuwait, which extended extensive aid to your country, which granted you loans, and which showered your country with investments. However, you showed ingratitude and stabbed Kuwait in the back. Worse still, you supported a tyrannical power against Kuwait and against its right to life. And now, you come to Kuwait to shed crocodile tears in the hope of opening a new chapter or promoting selfish interests.

O Tunisian minister: Our wounds are deep, festering, and painful. As for your country's position during the seven months of occupation, it was extremely treacherous, ungrateful, covetous, and rancorous. To add insult to injury, you gloated over our misfortune.

There is a proverb saying: "Once bitten, twice shy." As for us, we have been bitten many times by you; your bites have even been poisonous. As for your flimsy excuses and naive justifications, they can no longer beguile us.

Why should we go further while the evidence shows that your stands toward Kuwait's humanitarian, not political, issues are still ungrateful. Furthermore, these stands lack the basic rules of human justice. Didn't al-Rashid Idriss, who is a Tunisian official, try to obliterate the issue of our prisoners and to make statements in support of Iraqi tyranny, alleging that there are no prisoners in the Iraqi jails? Had it not been for the brave initiative of [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and his intensified attempts to rescue our prisoners the cause of our prisoners would have been forgotten.

O Tunisian minister: Haven't you embraced the headquarters of leadership of the Palestine "provocation" Organization that cooperated with the Iraqi enemy to end our existence and national identity in a cheap, mean, and exposed conspiracy? The false statements of repentance and crocodile tears are now of no avail.

Our people, who were exhausted by the wounds inflicted by the criminal Iraqi occupation and by the wounds of treachery inflicted by you and your comrades in the conspiracy, cannot deceive themselves or betray their consciences by receiving you on their chaste land, which only receives honest, genuine, and friendly people.

Our people denounce you, your statements, and every Kuwaiti citizen who visits your country or invests his money on your territory. We ask the Kuwaiti Government to sell its investments in the futile country even if these investments are profitable because these investments will neither increase nor affect our national income.

O Tunisian minister: If you believe you can open a new chapter with us through deception and maneuvering, we would like to tell you in the name of every Kuwaiti martyr and prisoner, in the name of every girl who was brutally raped by your friends and allies—the brave men of Iraq—in the name of thousands of displaced Kuwaitis, and in the name of all the people of Kuwait: We refuse to forget the painful past and we refuse to open a new chapter that ignores the blood of our martyrs, the shackles of our prisoners, and the suffering of our people during the ordeal of occupation. In fact, we ask our government and companies to stop their investments in Tunisia as this is the logic of truth and justice.

Despite our belief in the principles of hospitality, we like to be frank with ourselves and with others. Therefore, we say to the Tunisian foreign minister: You are not welcome on the chaste land of liberated Kuwait.

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## Improving Relations With Yemen Termed 'Blasphemy'

*JN2206201193 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 21*

[Article by Dr. 'Ayid al-Manna': "The Yemeni President's Blasphemy Is Unforgivable"]

[Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih wants us to forget his disgraceful stands and blatant bias toward his soul mate, Iraq's Genghiz Khan.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih thinks we are stupid. That is why he does not refrain from fabricating shameful lies about efforts that he allegedly made to end the sinful Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. Saddam Husayn's disciple has forgotten that despite the enormity of the disaster, we still have a strong memory. We can tell apart those who made efforts after taking a sincere, principled Arab stand, and those who sided politically with the aggressor while claiming to be defending the victim.

We know, and we will not forget, that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council, President Husni Mubarak, President Hafiz al-Asad, President Ilyas al-Hirawi, and King Hassan II, did not hesitate for one moment when they declared their rejection of the Iraqi aggression.

King Fahd and President Husni Mubarak made huge, strenuous efforts to talk the head of the Iraqi regime into withdrawing from Kuwait and sparing the Arab region, especially Iraq and Kuwait, the woes of war. However, the disaster-bringer insisted on going too far in his wrongdoing and dragging the region into a horrible war that greatly harmed his people, army, and military machine. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Husni Mubarak were eager to safeguard Iraq and the region. This, however, did not prevent them from adopting an unequivocal political stand rejecting the Iraqi aggression and its justifications, which were just as ugly and crude as the very crime of the aggression. Also, their concern for the security of their countries and the Arab region did not prevent them from using force to make the aggressor implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

As for the rest of the Arabs, some openly supported and blessed the Iraqi aggression, while others were secretly happy. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, King Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, and Maaouiya Taya have all been exposed. While the Iraqi regime was ravaging Kuwait—its land and people—those leaders were making statements explicitly or implicitly supporting Iraq. The fact that they did not officially recognize Iraq's annexation of Kuwait does not mean that they did not implicitly recognize erasing Kuwait from the map as an independent state. The objections they made to the Security Council resolutions and to the deployment of the international allied forces, staging pro-Iraq demonstrations, attempting to deceive world and Arab public opinion with a possible Arab solution to the disaster of the Iraqi occupation of

Kuwait, and making pro-Iraq statements—all of these acts express explicit hostility toward Kuwaiti existence and recognition of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

The Yemeni president is completely mistaken if he thinks that his statements to a Kuwaiti paper will polish his black record. The Kuwaiti people know that the Kuwaiti Government did its utmost to help Yemen, north and south, and that the Yemenis are a chivalrous nation, that the majority of the Yemeni people were not happy to see the hand that helped them economically, educationally, and politically being bitten. However, the Yemeni Government, led by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, blessed the biting of the generous Kuwaiti hand.

Anyone who thinks that we will extend our hand again to the one who blessed its biting is mistaken: Once bitten and twice shy.

We do not know how 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dares to justify his crime of participating in the aggression against Kuwait and supporting the Iraqi aggressor by claiming that Yemen wanted to use its relationship with Iraq to avert war and spare Kuwait, Iraq, and the Arab nation from harm.

Is it logical that the Yemeni president does not know that Kuwait was subjected to murder, robbery, and destruction, as well as the confiscation and cancellation of its identity? What damage is uglier than this?

We would have excused the Yemeni president if he was unaware of the mentality of Saddam Husayn. We would have excused him if he made this statement before Iraq officially annexed the State of Kuwait and changed it from a sovereign state into a governorate. But the Yemeni president knows the mentality of his ally, so he has no excuse other than the excuse of the bankrupt man who searches his old books hoping to find someone to bail him out of his problem.

It is no excuse to claim that he made efforts, and that he was concerned for the safety of Kuwait, Iraq, and the Arab nation after Saddam annexed Kuwait to his locked-up property. The Yemeni president should have kept away from Saddam Husayn after he annexed Kuwait, and he should have joined the allied international forces to compel the aggressor to heed the resolutions of international legitimacy. But the Yemeni President, who tries to make fools of others, went further in his sin—to the extent of stupidity and foolishness. He said: The Yemenis advised the Iraqis to withdraw but "the Iraqis considered discussion of the idea of withdrawal a type of blasphemy." Was that Iraqi answer not enough to change the Yemeni position? Didn't the Yemeni president know that Yemen's support for the Iraqi stance, particularly at the Security Council, was support for the blasphemy that the Iraqis spoke about to the Yemeni delegation, led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

It was the bad luck of the Yemeni president—on the assumption of his goodwill, which is a weak assumption—that the Iraqis had frankly told him that discussing the idea of withdrawal is blasphemy. If discussing the idea is blasphemy, what then is the withdrawal itself? Is it logical that after this open Iraqi talk, the Yemeni president was hoping to achieve something that would save the region from the horrors of war? We believe that the Yemeni president was pleased with the Iraqi blasphemy. Had he been displeased with it, he would not have implicated his country by continuing to support the Iraqi position.

The open Iraqi talk was an ideal excuse for holding the Iraqi leadership responsible for the failure of the Arab efforts, including the Yemeni efforts. But it seems that the Yemeni president's political calculations were as naive as the calculations of his Iraqi ally. The Yemeni president thought that the threat to use force might have not been translated into a swift action. This was what Saddam was wagering on. Had Saddam's expectations been correct, God forbid, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih would not have hesitated to follow the example of the Iraqi crime. His denial of having aggressive intentions toward Saudi Arabia is expected, but it does not mean goodwill. It means inability to realize his Saddamist dreams, especially since his "idol" is now unable to rule northern and southern Iraq.

After this denial of our existence and right to a free and honorable life, does the Yemeni president want us to forget the past and turn a new page? Are normal relations with Kuwait's enemy not enough for 'Ali Salih?

The past, which the Yemeni president want us to forget, is still in front of us. The blood of our martyrs has not dried yet, the suffering of our prisoners and missing people is still going on. Our country is still suffering economically, psychologically, and environmentally from the crime of the Iraqi occupation, which was not denounced by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. To turn a new chapter with this present regime is an illusion that should not even be considered. Considering such a step is blasphemy to our national dignity and a renunciation of the blood of our martyrs and the sufferings of our prisoners.

## Minister Rejects Threats, Affirms Death Sentences

*PM2306085793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 93 p 2*

[Muhammad al-Damyan report: "Reacting to Threats Which Followed Trial of 10 Jordanians, Kuwaiti Political and Parliamentary Demands for Quick Implementation of Death Sentences"]

[Text] Kuwait—Ahmad al-'Adasani, Kuwaiti minister of electricity, water, and public works, has stressed that Kuwait will not submit to any blackmail or intimidation from any group.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-'Adasani added that the threats made by some Palestinian organizations against Kuwait as a result of the death sentences passed against 10 Jordanians by the State Security Court for their collaboration with the Iraqi regime during its occupation of Kuwait will not prevent Kuwait taking any measure it deems right to safeguard its security and stability, including implementation of the death sentences.

Al-'Adasani pointed out that Kuwait is a country of law and institutions and one which respects human rights. And that the death sentences were passed by the Kuwaiti judiciary, which is impartial, implements the law, and is not subject to political influence. The Kuwaiti minister said: "We are a country which experienced detentions and oppression during the brutal Iraqi occupation. We saw our sons executed in front of us. We heard no condemnation of that from these organizations." He added that the Kuwaiti people's experience makes them a strong people as long as they apply what is right and fear no threats. He pointed out that the death sentences will be implemented following their endorsement by the amir of the State of Kuwait.

Deputy Mubarak al-Khuraynij, member of the National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, has emphasized that there will be parliamentary demands for the quick implementation of the death sentences passed on the 10 Jordanians.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "we will urge the security services to tighten security measures at all vital installations in anticipation of any emergency. We will also tighten security at our embassies and diplomatic missions."

Al-Khuraynij pointed out that "the threats made by some Palestinian organizations are part of a scheme designed to undermine Kuwait's security and stability. We tell these organizations: Your threats will not terrify us. We are a people who do not submit to intimidation and blackmail. And we have never been opposed to the Palestinian issue."

Al-Khuraynij added that Kuwait has never been opposed to the Palestinian people, who for a long time have lived a dignified existence among their Kuwaiti brothers. He said: "We the Kuwaiti people adhere to what is right and are determined to deter anyone who tampers with Kuwait's security, no matter who he is." Al-Khuraynij praised the impartiality of the Kuwaiti judiciary which passed the death sentences against the 10 Jordanians in a public trial in the presence of the world's media.

## 'Disgraceful' Role of Jordan's King Husayn Viewed

*JN2206160993 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Jordanian King and the American Blow"]

[Text] Before the Jordanian king's arrival in Washington to meet with U.S. President Clinton, the U.S. Congress revealed the king's personal, disgraceful role during Kuwait's ordeal and the aid he provided to the Iraqi regime in logistics, military equipment, and information. The Iraqi regime used this assistance to tighten its grip on the State of Kuwait. All of us are aware of the rest of the role played by the "Hashemite" king—beginning with his attempt to mislead the Arab leaders and his "reconciliatory" proposal aimed at gaining time, and ending with the game of "the Arab solution." The king was propagating this game in order to abort the international solution that was emerging from the legitimate Kuwaiti Government's call on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities toward the Iraqi aggression.

The king went to Washington to search for a way out of his impasse. He prepared himself and arranged his affairs, believing that he would be able to present evidence of his repentance. Washington, however, dealt the king a severe blow. And the U.S. president, despite the democratic congressional majority, did not try to protect his guest from the blow. What is behind this U.S. stance and what does Washington want from Husayn? The U.S. Administration knows full well that it is impossible for Kuwait, as well as the other Gulf states, to accept this delayed repentance. It also knows that the repercussions of the crime—the continued detention of Kuwaiti prisoners, nonrecognition of border demarcation, and insistence on provoking and encroaching on Kuwait—are still there.

Therefore, the U.S. President receives "the king" in a weakened position in order to push him toward a new role. This new role for the king is to accept a partial solution in the Arab-Israeli dispute in order to fragment the unity of the Arab position and to save Israel from its impasse before the world. The king's problems, however, are both domestic and international. The king's only choice will be to accept the role he is asked to play in order to survive for at least a little longer. The Arab negotiators should expect a stab in the back from the king who will return empty-handed from Washington.

## Lebanese Officials Arrive on Official Visit 22 Jun

*LD2206110993 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpt] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in the country at 1130 on an official visit to the State of Kuwait at the head of an official delegation including His Excellency Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul; His Excellency Walid Junblatt, minister of state for displaced people [title as heard]; His Excellency Information Minister Michel Samahah; and a number of senior officials. [passage omitted]

## Cooperation Talks Held With Chinese Delegation

*LD2206144193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1227 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpt] The third session of the Kuwaiti-Chinese joint committee began in Kuwait this morning. It centered on developing and bolstering economic cooperation in various commercial, development, technical, and investment fields.

The Kuwaiti side was headed by Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan and the Chinese side was headed by State Councillor Li Lanqing. [passage omitted]

## Al-Shu'aiba Refinery To Become Operational in Oct

*LD2206222293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1752 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 Jun (KUNA)—Ahmad 'Abd al-Mohsin al-Mutair, chairman of the Board of the Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company, said today that the al-Shu'aiba refinery, which the occupying Iraqi forces destroyed, will be operational in October and its output capacity will reach 130,000 barrels of oil a day at the end of this year.

Al-Mutair, who was on an inspection tour of the refineries, told KUNA that the three oil refineries—al-Ahmadi, Mina Abdullah, and al-Shu'aiba—will operate with a production capacity of 660,000 barrels a day at the end of this year, which means that the second stage of reconstructing the refineries has been "successfully" completed.

He said the Mina al-Ahmadi refinery production will reach 300,000 barrels of oil a day at the end of this year and it is planned that Mina Abdullah's production should reach 230,000 barrels and al-Shu'aiba's 130,000.

On the efficiency of Kuwait's refineries and the ability of their products to compete on the world market, Al-Mutair said that the National Petroleum Company is keen to improve the types of products to match the needs of the world market.

He indicated that the company is about to produce unleaded gasoline and said the production plan has already been adopted. [passage omitted]

He said the percentage of Kuwaitis working in the operational zones in the refineries is now about 90 percent.

On the other hand, company's Deputy Chairman Abdul-Aziz al-Busairi said that 25 refineries in Mina Abdullah have been repaired and work is underway to operate the central control center in Mina Abdullah which cost about four million Kuwaiti dinars.

Al-Busair said all of Kuwait's refineries are determined to handle all types of oil.

On reoperating the ports, he said that the al-Shu'aiba oil port and the industrial island in Mina Abdullah and the southern jetty in Mina al-Ahmadi have been operating.

Asked about the liquified gas plant, Al-Busairi said it is now working at one-third of its refining capacity, indicating that the plant's refining capacity will increase in line with an increase in Kuwait's production.

He mentioned that Kuwait's produced gas usually accompanies its oil production.

Asked about selling gas stations to the private sector, Al-Busairi said the company is waiting for a Cabinet agreement to adopt the selling plan. He said the company has not taken any steps toward this action.

Al-Busairi ruled out increasing the number of refineries for the present and said there are studies to develop the refineries, increase their effectiveness, and update them in the third stage of reconstructon in order to suit the environment and world market demands.

On the reasons for the delayed operation of al-Shuaiba refinery, he said the main reason was the total destruction of the main oil refinery unit by the occupying Iraqi forces and the lack of additional tanks, in addition to the destruction of Port Shu'aiba.

He said the amount which the refineries provide the local market in the form of oil by-products ranges between 100,000 and 120,000 barrels a day.

On cooperation between Kuwaiti refineries and Kuwaiti-owned refineries abroad, Al-Busairi said there is close cooperation particularly in the lubricating oil sector which is imported, treated, and then bottled in Kuwait.

## Minister on Petrochemical Project With Union Carbide

*LD1906140793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1204 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said today that the participation of the American company Union Carbide in the project for the construction of the petrochemical complex in Kuwait reflects confidence in the Kuwaiti economy.

In a statement to KUNA after his meeting with Robert Kennedy, chairman of the Union Carbide Board of Directors, he added that this company has been chosen out of many international companies to be Kuwait's partner in the huge petrochemical complex project to be constructed in Kuwait at the cost of 700 million Kuwaiti dinar.

Al-Baghli described Union Carbide as one of the giant companies which specializes in petrochemical industries. [passage omitted]

Al-Baghli also noted that Union Carbide's share in the venture is 45 percent, Kuwait's share is 45 percent, and the private sector's share is 10 percent. These shares can change and will be subject to Kuwaiti law. Kuwait will have a majority vote. He added that Union Carbide has a long history of experience in the petrochemical industries.

## Saudi Arabia

### King Discusses Current Events With Turkish President

*LD2306082593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, yesterday received a telephone call from His Excellency Suleyman Demirel, president of the Republic of Turkey.

During the conversation, they exchanged points of view over the development of current events in the region and all issues serving Islamic interests in all arenas. In addition, they reviewed the bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and means of strengthening them in all areas.

### King Presides Over 14 Jun Cabinet Session

*LD1406204093 Riyadh SPA in English 1951 GMT 14 Jun 93*

[Text] Jeddah, June 14, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud presided over the weekly regular session held by the Council of Ministers at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon.

Information minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir told the SPA afterwards that at the beginning of the session King Fahd expressed deep satisfaction over the tremendous success realised during the just concluded hajj season and attributed the great achievements to the blessing of the almighty Allah and the excellent efforts made by the various hajj-concerned bodies and corporations.

"On this occasion, I would like to express deep appreciation to all our Arab and Muslim brothers who expressed by cables, letters or statements their good feelings towards us and all sincere writers who published the righteous word in some Arab and Western papers and through the various media means, " the King said.

Al-Sha'ir added that King Fahd reiterated the determination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to go ahead with its welfare efforts to improve and develop services and facilities at the two holy harams for the comfort of pilgrims.

Afterwards, the cabinet reviewed a number of items on its agenda and the King listened to the opinions of concerned ministers on matters raised during the session. The council referred some items to the General Committee of the Council for Completion of Regular Procedures.

Among the resolution adopted by the cabinet during today's session were the following:

—the council agreed on the shares allocated for the Kingdom in the fourth general increase of the capital of the Arab Bank for African Development which total 2,275 shares with a total value of dlrs 31.6 million.

—the council delegated the minister of finance and national economy or a representative of him for negotiation with the international agency for investment guarantee on charting an agreement for legal protection.

—as recommended by the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Hisham Nazir, the council endorsed a recommendation presented by the ministerial committee for the cancellation of the project of Samarec Company under construction and decided mergence of all refineries and distribution establishments in the Saudi Aramco Company and thus, all phases of Aramco for production, refining, transport and marketing have been completed within a unified national company with the aim of developing those refineries and making wider room for training for all personnel of the oil industry.

### Chairs 21 Jun Meeting

*LD2106212793 Riyadh SPA in English 1932 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] Jeddah, June 21, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud presided over the weekly regular session of the Council of Ministers at As-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon.

Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that at the beginning of the session, the council got acquainted with a final and a comprehensive report presented by Prince Naif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister and chairman of the Haj Supreme Committee on Achievements of the Haj season of 1413 AH. [1992-1993]

The report tackled the best means to find solutions for the increasing pressure from inland pilgrims and the need for early consultation and coordination between the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments and the concerned Haj bodies in Islamic states on the best measures that could realise comfort and ease for pilgrims with intensive information awareness and guidance programs to be carried out by the Ministry of Information in coordination with media organs of other Islamic states. The king directed the concerned ministers to start right now arrangements for the upcoming Haj season.

The cabinet also reviewed a number of reports on the most important political and security developments on Arab and international arenas. The Saudi monarch briefed the ministers on the kingdom's positions over these events including its unwavering support for a comprehensive and a just peace process in the region within a framework that could ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination on bases of the Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338.

King Fahd expressed the kingdom's grave concern over the painful development taking place at Bosnia-Herzegovina and the sufferings being sustained by the oppressed Bosnian Moslems. The Saudi monarch stated the noble positions undertaken by the kingdom to save the Bosnian people from the barbarism and increasing Serbian aggression as well as referred to moral, material and humanitarian assistances being rendered by the kingdom. "The kingdom will continue such assistances," King Fahd noted.

"As we said on many occasions, there is no solution for the Bosnian tragedy in the face of the persistence of the Serbs to eliminate the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina, except if those people were allowed to practice their legitimate right to self-defense in a way that could deter the Serbs and prevent them from pursuing their nefarious crimes," King Fahd said.

Referring to the current developments in Somalia, the king voiced the kingdom's support to the international measures aimed at terminating fighting and realising peace and stability for the people of Somalia.

Al-Sha'ir said the king also briefed the cabinet on the contents of a message he received from King Hassan of Morocco, which was handed over to him by the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Abdullatif al-Filali on Sunday.

The council approved some appointments and promotions to the 14th grade at the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

## Yemen

### PFLP's George Habash Arrives for Talks With Leaders

*JN2306141893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Brother George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit of several days to our country.

During the visit, the PFLP secretary general will hold talks with the Yemeni leadership on ways of cooperation between the Palestinian and Yemeni revolutions, the latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas, as well as issues of common interest in the service of the Palestinian and Yemeni people.

The Palestinian official was received by brothers Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party; Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress and other officials.

## 'Aziz Blames Blockade on 'Negative Attitude' of U.S.

*JN2206161893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has asserted that the continuation of the blockade against Iraq is the result of the negative attitude of the United States, which rejects any discussion of the issue with any other state.

In an interview with the London-based (EVERGE COMPASS) magazine, 'Aziz said Iraq has implemented Security Council Resolution 687, pointing out that Resolutions 706 and 712 on Iraqi oil sales are not the right way to meet the needs of Iraq, which expressed a willingness to sell oil to the permanent members to ascertain the quantity it is selling.

He added that Resolutions 706 and 712 violate Iraq's sovereignty. This, he said, is in addition to the complex mechanism proposed by the United Nations to sell oil, noting that this mechanism is completely unacceptable.

On Iraq's OPEC relations, 'Aziz said Iraq is still an OPEC member and no one can prevent it from raising its production in the future.

'Aziz stressed that Iraq does not hold any Kuwaiti prisoner and has no interest in doing so. Iraq has informed King Hassan II of Morocco about this.

Regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Taiq 'Aziz said Iraq has implemented Resolution 687 and has not rejected the principle of future monitoring. However, the United Nations, under U.S. pressure, is unable to acknowledge Iraq's implementation of Resolution 687, since such an acknowledgment would necessitate lifting the blockade. He noted that Iraq can never risk its greater national interests for such deception and tricks.

On U.S. policy toward Iraq and Iran, 'Aziz asked: If the United States can not contain Haiti, how can it contain Iran, which has large borders and ties with the republics of the former Soviet Union, along with ties to North Korea and the PRC? The United States, he said, should adopt better policies in dealing with the countries of the region, since its present policies do not lead to stability.

## Oil Offered to Egypt as Compensation for Workers

*NC2206170293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The regime of dictator Saddam Husayn, suffering a shortage of foreign currency because of the international siege imposed on it by the dictator's aggressive policy, has offered to supply Egypt with crude oil to settle what it owes Egyptian workers in Iraq. The Egyptian newspaper AL-SHA'B has quoted an official in the ostracized regime as saying his master wants to solve the problem by offering Iraqi oil as compensation, instead of resorting to the UN Compensations Committee. He said the regime emphatically refuses to recognize the UN Compensations Committee and its actions.

The paper noted that the Committee is implementing its decisions with or without the approval of the dictator's regime. It added that the regime official admitted the Committee does not seek his master's opinion on any of its moves.

## Palestinian Official Denies Smuggling Canceled Dinars

*JN2006183293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1618 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—A responsible source at the State of Palestine's Embassy in Baghdad has denied a report published in the latest edition of the Paris-based AL-MUHARRIR newspaper to the effect that the director general of the Palestine National Fund had tried to smuggle millions of canceled Iraqi dinars.

In a statement he made, he also said that the way the report was published stresses that the aim of this newspaper was not only to hurt the reputation of the director general of the Palestine National Fund, as well as the PLO, but also to hurt Palestinian relations with Arab forces confronting Western designs and to weaken these forces by stirring up enmity among them.

The responsible source asserted that the PLO has taken some legal measures against AL-MUHARRIR newspaper and said the method the paper pursues shows that it does not respect the intellect of its readers.

## Syria Said To Refuse Use of Pound in Kurdish Areas

*NC2206164793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Informed Syrian sources have stated that Syria turned down a request by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani to use the Syrian pound as a currency for circulation in northern Iraq following a decision by dictator Saddam Husayn's regime to cancel the 25-dinar banknote. In press statements published today, the Syrian sources noted that Syria believes the use of two currencies in one country effectively consecrates the secession of northern Iraq, which Syria rejects.

## 'Behind the Scenes' Talks Held With Egypt, France

*NC2306103493 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 21 Jun 93 p 7*

[Text] Security talks are being held separately behind the scenes between Iraqi and French officials and Iraqi and Egyptian security officials to discuss the adjustment of relations between Iraq on the one hand and France and Egypt on the other. Relations between Iraq and the two countries deteriorated in the wake of the Iraqi Army's devastation of Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

Arab sources do not rule out that the French goal is to show a degree of independence from Washington, whose real stance on Baghdad is still vague.

The Egyptian goal is to address a meaningful message to the Gulf states who, Egypt believes, are slow in helping it overcome its economic crisis and fail to show responsiveness to its stance on Islamic groups. Egypt wants to give another message to Iran, which supports these groups politically, financially, and technically.

## Saddam Receives Cables Celebrating New Islamic Year

### Jordan's Prince Offers Congratulations

*JN2206125293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from his brother Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, the regent, on the advent of the new Islamic year.

The cable says: As the Islamic nation celebrates the advent of a new Islamic year, I am pleased to take this opportunity to extend to your excellency, in my name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, our warmest congratulations.

We ask God Almighty to grant your excellency continued good health and the fraternal Iraqi people continued progress and prosperity. We also hope our Islamic nation will unify its stands to serve its peoples and achieve continued progress and affluence. Many happy returns.

### Religious Celebrants Send Wishes

*JN2206201093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] Participants in the celebration held by the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs on the occasion of the prophet's hegira [reference to prophet Muhammed's emigration from Mecca to Medina] and the new hegira year, renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn to remain faithful soldiers under the God-is-great flag, which his excellency is hoisting to defend great Iraq.

In a cable they sent to leader President Saddam Husayn at the end of their celebration, they congratulated his excellency on this anniversary, which coincides with the gesture of faith of teaching the holy Koran to all school grades beginning next year.

Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate,

Leader mujahid President Saddam Husayn,

We, the participants in the celebration held by the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs on the occasion of the prophet's hegira and the new hegira year, present Your Excellency—with all respect and pride—the best congratulations and wishes on this glorious occasion. Our souls, which are full of faith that our people—while suffering from the unjust siege—will be able very soon, under your unique historic leadership, to defeat all their enemies, the leaders of blasphemy and heresy and their failing agents. The future will be full of prosperity, pride, welfare, and dignity.

Your Excellency the Mujahid President: Our celebration of the hegira of your great grandfather, the prophet of mercy and the liberator of humanity from illusions, sin, and heresy, is an embodiment of these sublime values for which the first Muslims fought. After much sacrifice, long and difficult times of patience, and battles against all forms of evil, sin, and aggression, they were able to make a new human history that is free of cheating, humiliation, and injustice.

In the current circumstances, where the earth's satans dream of burying any true and sincere sound that calls for truth, freedom, and pride, the only thing left for the true faithfuls is the sword of the leader mujahid Saddam Husayn and his brilliant thoughts from which the lights of right, heroism, justices shine. This is because your leadership of the immortal myth of the Mother of Battles has generated great aspirations in the hearts of all the oppressed in this world about a new age in which the values of freedom and justice prevail, the same as the first immigrants who—through their patience and deep faith in God—succeeded in building a new world that has no blasphemy, humiliation, and satan. We are fully confident that you, and with your brave comrades and our patient and courageous people, will redraw the world and realize a clear victory. We are fully aware of your bravery, your great faith in God and the immortal message of Islam, and your holy struggle and jihad against the oppressors, the enemies of peoples and humanity.

We pray God to preserve you as protector of the Arabs and Muslims, humiliate your enemies, and support those who stood with you and who walked on the road of pride, glory and jihad.

Peace, and God's mercy and blessings on you.

[Singed] Celebrators of the prophet's hegira and the new hegira year at the Great Imam Mosque, 1st Muharram 1414 hegira year

## Envoys to South Africa Suspected of Smuggling Funds

*TA2306050293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] The South African authorities suspect that two senior officials at the Israeli Embassy tried illegally to transfer hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the country. The two men in question are Reserve Brigadier Hagay Regev, a former military attache to Pretoria, and Aharon Dagan. The two are suspected of transferring money abroad for Jewish South Africans and for Israelis living in the country. A Jewish Agency aliyah emissary to South Africa, Dov Levi, was detained earlier this month and released by the South African authorities. He was also suspected of smuggling out money.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 23 June adds that "South Africa has lodged a protest with Israel" over the affair.]

### Peres Comments on Reports

*TA2306104593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has reacted to the reports about the Israeli affair in South Africa, saying legal procedures will be used to investigate it. He also said he believes the United States will not pressure Israel to speed up the political process during the current round of talks in Washington. Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, spoke with Peres:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Legal procedures will be used to investigate everything that must be investigated. The investigation will determine if there is a basis for the accusations and will ascertain what precisely these accusations are. Everything will be done according to legal procedures.

[Horowitz] Do you think the Israeli envoys abused their diplomatic immunity?

[Peres] Since the matter will be investigated, I will not say what I think.

[Horowitz] Still, it has been reported that the affair has already harmed relations between the two states.

[Peres] Of course, we could have done without it—that is obvious. However, because human beings are involved, it must be investigated properly.

[Horowitz] With the resumption of the negotiations in Washington, do you think the United States will now exert more pressure to speed up the political process?

[Peres] I believe the United States will be more active, but I do not think it will exert more pressure because you cannot negotiate under pressure. The logic of negotiations is that they are conducted without pressure. The United States cannot fulfill our role or that of the Palestinians. It can fill the vacuum between us but not take our places.

[Horowitz] Does the fact that the U.S. State Department has reshuffled its diplomats indicate it wants to play a greater role in the political process?

[Peres] I believe so, although in any event they had to man several vacant posts, such as ambassador to Israel, which is considered a very sensitive and very important post. [end recording]

## Rabin Interviewed on Anniversary of Labor Victory

*TA2306085293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Dan] Mr. Rabin, today marks a year since Labor's return to power. Before dealing with this issue, we would like you to comment on the report that two security employees in the Israeli Embassy in South Africa smuggled out funds belonging to South African Jews.

[Rabin] I do not want to react. I will say only this: Any Israeli representative in South Africa who has violated its laws will be interrogated, and the appropriate conclusions will be drawn on the basis of this interrogation, not on the basis of reports.

[Friedman] Mr. Rabin, do you believe that Minister Der'i should remain in the government?

[Rabin] Let me reiterate here that Minister Der'i is an excellent and active minister, who carries out the missions of his ministry well. In reference to the charges against him, when the government was established Minister Der'i handed me a commitment that says that if a charge sheet is submitted to the court, he will tender his resignation. I accepted this arrangement. I think Der'i should have been treated like the minister in the previous government who was presented with a completed charge sheet and was given the opportunity for a hearing. [reference to former Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki, who was charged with corruption] [passage omitted]

[Dan] Mr. Rabin, today marks a year since Labor's victory in the elections. We remember the promise you made at that time that autonomy will be established within nine months. Apparently the timetable has changed somewhat.

[Rabin] There are some areas in which we are ahead of the original timetable. Today, on my visit to various traffic axes, I saw tremendous progress. I am referring here to various traffic junctions in the central area which I visited this morning, but I can also state that intensive efforts are being made to connect the Negev and the

Galilee to the center of the country. The Israeli road system will be totally different within three years. I admit, at the same time, that I hoped the political process would be quicker. Just as I mark our achievements, I can admit that I was mistaken in judging the timetable.

[Dan] Mr. Rabin, what has been your greatest disappointment over the last year?

[Rabin] My main disappointment concerns the peace process. I believed that when the present Israeli Government formulated a completely different policy from that of the previous government, as exemplified by our acceptance of 242 as we understand it, our readiness to implement it in order to obtain peace with Syria, and our different attitude toward autonomy or the interim arrangement....[pauses] We are not interested in a peace that will not provide us with security as we perceive it, and I want to emphasize this latter point. Unfortunately, the Arab side has not reacted appropriately. In any event, today Israel is presented in the world, and especially in the United States, as a country that has taken a significant step toward peace. The Arab side, however, has not done enough. I am satisfied to note the article published yesterday in THE WASHINGTON POST, which presents the Israeli Government position faithfully. I know that this article has had strong reverberations in the United States. The head of the Syrian delegation to the negotiations even saw fit to sharply attack this article. This is our position: We want peace. I believe we will achieve it, even if it takes longer to attain it. However, we will not forgo things we consider vital for strengthening the peace and safeguarding Israel's security.

[Friedman] Mr. Rabin, you commented on your disappointment. What is the government's main achievement in your opinion?

[Rabin] Our greatest achievement is that we created an atmosphere of openness. We do not believe that all the world is against us, and we are free of the ghetto mentality. We believe in our strength, in our military and overall power. We approach both the peace negotiations and the world with a sense of security, and I believe this marks a different attitude. Let me add here that we are approaching three months since the closure was imposed. I believe that the closure has significantly improved the sense of security of Israeli citizens.

[Dan] How long will the closure continue?

[Rabin] There is no reason to determine a precise date for its termination. In addition to the peace efforts and economic and social issues, I also want to restore a sense of security to the 4 million Jewish Israelis and to another million non-Jews who live in sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem. At the same time, we will wage a relentless war against terrorism and safeguard the security of the Jews living in the territories. Most of all, we want to provide a sense of security within Israel.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

## Stresses Need for Arms in Era of Peace

*TA2206111393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jun 93 p A5*

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] The Israel Defense Award prize, named after Eliyahu Golomb, was given to 24 workers of the defense establishment at the president's residence yesterday. The ceremony was attended by President 'Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, and the laureates' families.

Speaking at the ceremony, Prime Minister Rabin said: "We want peace, but we are keeping our eyes open. While we are conducting peace talks with the Arabs and the Palestinians, the military buildup in Arab and Muslim countries continues—and its quality is more worrisome than the quantities."

Rabin added: "We are standing at the threshold of the peace era, but this does not mean an end to arms. The opposite is perhaps true: The risks we are taking upon ourselves toward the coming of peace commit us to keeping our eyes open, being prepared, and providing our defense personnel and the State of Israel with the best possible means of war and deterrence. As has been said: 'Let he who desires peace prepare for war.'" [passage omitted]

## Beilin: No Peace Without Territorial Withdrawal

*TA2306085993 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Jun 93 p 2*

[Report by Yosef Galili]

[Text] "There will be no peace with the Syrians without a withdrawal on the Golan Heights, and there will be no peace with the Palestinians if we do not leave Gaza and a large part of Judaea and Samaria. Jerusalem is not up for negotiation," Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin told the Zionist General Council, which convened in special session in Metulla. Beilin also said that any agreement reached will be presented to the public for approval.

Beilin said that Prime Minister Rabin is not speaking about a Golan withdrawal involving centimeters, but kilometers instead. "The moment the Syrians clarify what they mean by peace, Israel will have to be clearer about the depth of its withdrawal," Beilin said.

"'Peace With the Golan' makes a good bumper sticker but does not correspond to reality," Beilin said. "The continuation of the status quo will be the continuation of violence."

## Cabinet Discusses Territories, Economic Issues

*TA2006142693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] The police minister reported to the cabinet today on a sharp drop in crime against property since the imposition of the closure on the territories. He noted that theft of vehicle parts has dropped some 40 percent, theft from inside vehicles declined by 25 percent, and all types of break-ins dropped by about 14 percent.

A dispute broke out in the cabinet session over whether to make long-term investments in the territories. The prime minister said that investments should be based on already existing plans. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur supported long-range investments as a act of trust in the Jewish inhabitants of the territories, but Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am were firmly opposed and said that funds should not be invested for long-range planning in the territories.

The cabinet approved the tourism minister's proposal to prepare a map of priority areas for tourism. Our correspondent Arye Shaqed reports that the map divides the country up into 22 regions, and incentives to investors will be allocated according to the number of hotel rooms and the number of tourists they actually attract.

The cabinet also extended to the end of the year the law on encouraging the business sector. Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman notes that under that law the government pays one third of the salaries of new workers in the business sector in their first working year, and 25 percent in the second year. It was agreed that the law has outlived itself and will cease being valid at the end of the year when it will not be re-approved.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 20 June reports: "The cabinet did not decide today to permit more Palestinians to work in Israel, but Prime Minister Rabin reported that people over the age of 50 will be permitted to enter Israel freely without requiring any permits."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 20 June adds: "Since the start of the year, 250 people have been removed from the list of wanted men in the territories. Over 140 men have been taken off the list since the closure was imposed. Half gave themselves up and others ran away to Egypt or were killed, the cabinet was told, according to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz."]

## Soldiers Capture 'Terrorists'; 2 Arabs Found Dead

*TA2206174293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] In a special operation today, Jerusalem police arrested 300 residents of the territories who were working in the capital illegally. They were turned over to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and returned to their homes. The police issued some 100 fines against contractors who employed the workers illegally.

Meanwhile, in the Gaza Strip today, the IDF captured three wanted terrorists. They were caught in the Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the territories says they were in possession of a Carl Gustav submachine gun and two hand grenades.

Earlier today, several shots were fired at the offices of the Civil Administration in Gaza. Nobody was hurt, and no damage was caused.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 22 June adds: "The Jerusalem District Court sentenced 18-year-old 'Ayyad Shatra from the village of 'Isawiyah to 12 years in prison. He was convicted of attempting to murder a Jewish boy near Damascus Gate about a year ago. The judges took into consideration the fact that the youngster voiced contrition for his actions, that there was no evidence that he was a member of a terrorist organization, and that he has psychological problems.

["Thirty-four-year-old Muhammad Sabri al-Ram was murdered today in Rafah, apparently on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities. His body was brought to an IDF checkpoint and later transferred to the Abu-Kabir forensic institute. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Sha'ban al-Jadiyan was shot to death last night in similar circumstances in the Jabalyah refugee camp. His body was also transferred to the forensic institute."]

## Army Chief Baraq Comments on Capture of Fugitives

*TA2206174993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is continuing its successful campaign against wanted Palestinians, but that the problem still remains. Baraq said the Army is facing a tremendous burden, and that certain changes would have to be made in IDF combat units. David Ze'ev reports:

The Army chief of staff came to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee equipped with figures on the declining number of wanted Palestinians still running loose in the territories, but he said it has taken its toll on combat units. According to a Knesset official at the meeting, Gen. Baraq said the IDF is feeling a tremendous burden. Still this year and, to a greater extent, in the two years to come, he said, training exercises will be increased and will also be on a larger scale.

Even more complicated and sensitive than the territories of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the general said, is operating in the southern Lebanon security zone where any Army activity is liable to draw a Katyusha rocket attack in response. The chief of staff described the situation in southern Lebanon as low profile constant pressure: 22 attacks in only the first three weeks of this month, the Israeli and south Lebanese armies returning the fire.

Despite the overall move to reduce reserve duty, not everyone will enjoy the benefits. Reserves soldiers, depending on where they serve, spending between 35 and 90 days in the reserves during the course of a year. The chief of staff said reserve soldiers make a great sacrifice, and he called on the Knesset to legislate a way to appropriately compensate the reservists.

## Shahal: Palestinians in Jordan Training as Bodyguards

*TA2306103293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the Palestinian team that left for Jordan on Sunday did not do so in order to train as a future autonomy police force. Appearing before the Knesset a short while ago, the police minister said they went for one reason only: in order to train as bodyguards for members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Shahal said the Palestinian negotiators are faced with threats and requested Israeli permission to train bodyguards.

## King Continues Washington Visit, Meets Officials

### Holds News Conference 21 Jun

*JN2206211093 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1919 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[News conference by Jordan's King Husayn with unidentified reporters in Washington on 21 June—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, and friends. It's a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to meet with you today, and to see amongst you once again many old and familiar faces—all in the sense of friendship and not terms of age. And I am very happy to be here with you today, with Nur, my Jordanian colleague and friends. And I hope that in the time that is ahead of us we will be able to have a free and open discussion about all matters of interest to you.

We are at the Four Seasons, and it may be appropriate to say that relations between friends, as well go through seasons. And as far as I am concerned it has been a real pleasure and a privilege to have been able to visit the United States once again, and Washington in particular, and to have had the pleasure of meeting with the President, the vice president, and secretary of state, and other friends so far.

As far as that is concerned, I feel so hopeful, and so satisfied with the atmosphere of friendship with which I have been received, and which I believe grew during the meeting I had with the President. I am so appreciative of the hospitality and warmth with which I was received, and the chance to talk frankly and openly about where we are at the moment, and where we wish to go in our part of the world.

I was moved by his interest, his knowledge, and his determination to hopefully contribute personally and with the United States towards helping all concerned in our region move towards a cherished dream and to transform it into a reality. It's approximately 34 years since I first came to this city, and had the privilege of visiting the White House. I feel as encouraged and as enthusiastic now as I felt at the best of any of the visits that preceded this one.

I wish President Clinton every success in the years ahead, and I wish him every success in regard to the expectations and hopes that we all have for him, for the United States, for its unique position in the world. And that once again, it can be an example, and the torchbearer, or ideals and principles that are dear to all of us, and that first brought us together many many years ago. So it is about the end of spring and the beginning of summer. And as far as I am concerned it is the beginning of spring in terms of our relations once again with our friends in the United States—a friendship that has spanned many years, a friendship that was based on a feeling that we are partners and friends, and friends committed to upholding the same ideals and principles, seeking to uphold them and to achieve something worthwhile for generations to come.

In Jordan, we are very vocal and very clear as to where we stood in the world that preceded the upheaval that all of us lived through in the last few years in terms of this great global village, which is ours all and equally. And we were proud of our friendship. We spoke of it and we defended it when others may have felt that it wasn't prudent to do so. I hope that we are on the verge of resuming this friendship in the present and for the future with all the warmth, sincerity, mutual trust, and sense of partnership that will enable us to contribute, I hope, toward a better future for generations to come. As far as I am concerned, it is my only hope and my only wish that long after we are gone, people will judge us well, and, if we are able to, to contribute our utmost and best to give them all a chance for the kind of life that is their right and that hasn't been possible so far.

I know there are many topics you would like to discuss. One of them the peace process that is very, very important to us. We are proud and happy to have been able to contribute toward that at the very outset and throughout. I did suggest that it was going to take time and effort. But I believe it is about time that people saw some change in the results, so that the overwhelming majority on either side of the divide can gain courage in regard to their conviction that this opportunity cannot be lost. If we lose it, then the future is extremely bleak, and we will be sliding into an abyss.

We decided to go to Madrid at a national meeting in Jordan, when all representative bodies were invited to discuss the subject of peace and the opportunity of peace. And it is with that support behind us that we moved to Madrid, and have been moving ever since. I am hopeful, and I am optimistic, and I am determined that we will do everything we can to encourage progress towards a comprehensive settlement that gives Palestinians their legitimate rights on their soil, that gives parties on either side of the divide their security needs and their confidence in the future, and that gives all those immediately involved, and further and beyond, a chance to experience life as has never been the case so far. And for the children of Abraham to come together and for them to start, as they should, a new life with peace and dignity—the kind of life that they can live with and protect in the times ahead, because it is based on justice and a conviction that they've resolved their problem, the root cause of instability in the Middle East, and, maybe, beyond.

We hope that the United States will be able to play a more active role in the times ahead, as a partner and as the major power in our world. I am confident it will.

On another plane, as regards Jordan, I would like to say that throughout all these years, we have tried to weather storms and to face up to challenges, and we have put all our faith and our hopes in our people, regardless of their origins, members of the Jordanian family.

In our neighborhood, we have been on the receiving end of the damage caused by every disaster that beset the area, and we have absorbed the damage caused by every upheaval throughout the history of our country. But with faith and with courage, with dedication, I believe we have come a long way.

Our basic commitment to the future of the region is through making Jordan an example to others. Some may not like that; some may view it with suspicion, but we believe in the human being, we believe in his worth, we believe in his rights. So when it was possible to return to what we had begun or inherited even in terms of democracy, we did so. Following the disengagement—legal, administrative—with the West Bank in response to a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic demand, we decided to return to a parliamentary life and we held elections which, by all accounts, are the freest and cleanest yet in our region.

We also felt that it was imperative that we get all schools of political thought in Jordan to come together and to enter a dialogue, so we established a royal commission, which within nine months of hard work—people representing all schools from the extreme right to the extreme left—managed to produce a National Charter which was adopted by the country as a whole, based on respect of the Constitution and outlining and defining the route that all of us would take into the future.

Now it is almost the end of the four years of the Jordanian Parliament, and pretty soon we will be preparing for fresh elections. There is discussion about the possibility of some changes to the Electoral Law, and this will happen as a result of a dialogue between, again, all the schools of political thought that put together the National Charter, in the times ahead, as we also look and prepare for the elections later on this year at the new facts that have emerged in Jordan in terms of, between 300,000 and 400,000 Jordanians who've returned to the country and who amongst them would be eligible to vote or to run in the coming elections.

We hope to be, once again, an example to others and a sign of our faith and commitment to democracy, to freedom, to the right of people to partake in shaping their future and equally respect for human rights, because we are interested in that not only for ourselves, but for others within the region and in the world. We believe this is the way to the future; we believe that nobody can hide behind closed doors; we believe that the clock cannot be turned back; we believe that people have a right to share in shaping their future and fulfilling their destines. So, we hope that in a small way, regardless of the size of Jordan or its population, it may offer an example of something that can work and will work, God willing, and others may decide that this is the way, or a way, for positive movement into a better future for all of us.

As far as the Arab states are concerned, we wish them all the best. We are proud to belong to this nation, and to have always sought, within our Arab family, the best possible relations based on mutual respect, noninterference in the affairs of each other, and for harmony and for complementarity to enable us to face the future and face all the challenges that are before us.

We have passed through a difficult time. I believe without democracy and without the participation of all in shaping the decisions that we had to go through, and facing up to the tremendous pressures and misunderstandings, we might not have survived this recent difficult period. We look at the future with pride and with hope and with determination, and we hope that the Arab family will come together and, maybe, one day, before too long we can see the kind of cooperation within our region for which we strove, be it the people who returned from the Gulf for stability and progress, or be it Jordan in terms of its history and its policies throughout, at least to see something similar to what has happened in Europe, where regardless of systems of government, and regardless of the size of countries or nations, a great deal has been achieved. Arab hopes and aspirations will always be very close to us and a part of our need for a better future for our people everywhere.

Beyond that, we are involved in trying to help, wherever we can. We share with you many concerns; human rights everywhere. What can we do to help? How can we cooperate with the new Islamic republics, and Jordan has been the land for many throughout its history. So, we have many Jordanians who originate from these republics. In fact, we have many ties, and we have a role to play there, be it in trying to provide, within our limited means, educational facilities.

We have a university, where we have put the best brains and the cleanest minds in the Arab amd Muslim world, hopefully, to work and to teach generations to come, not only in theology but in theology and all the other aspects of life that are important to create bridges and, hopefully, to contribute toward a better future for all and a more stable society.

This is roughly where we are at the moment. If we take Jordan and the challenges it faces, they are tremendous. But, the secret throughout has been the human being, his commitment. Maybe I have grown over the years, but so has Jordan, and my determination and commitment is to lay the foundations for a country that will fulfill its role in shaping a better future for that region for all the times to come.

So, the fact is that what is being discussed is the agenda which was worked out to the full satisfaction of the Jordanian side in terms of what items ought to be discussed as they pertain to Jordan and Israel. This is what we have been hearing about. But we have not ratified it, pending some progress that we hope and pray will come on the Palestinian-Israeli track. As far as we are concerned, we would like to see a comprehensive peace in the area, and we believe that all the different elements have got to be worked out. But the final ratification of peace has to come together. So, we are doing our very best to encourage progress where it is important because the Palestinian problem is the root cause of the problem. It is a human tragedy. So, it is our hope that some progress will be made there.

But, as far as our delegation is concerned, we have told them from the outset that they can discuss anything and everything, so that as much of the work is done and removed out of the way in terms of arriving at some understanding, how we address certain problems and a common understanding of the answers. But, final peace can only come when all the elements are put together, and that is exactly where we are.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, to follow up on my [word indistinct] question. Do you envisage initialing, or signing this agenda with Israel once more progress is made on the Israeli-Palestinian problem, and what, in your view, constitutes tangible progress or what has to happen in Israeli-Palestinian talks that would be visible to the people on the ground and would constitute a genuine progress [words indistinct] that will allow you then to go ahead and conclude an agreement with Israel?

[Husayn] An agreement on what, sir? An agreement on the subjects we are discussing? Well, we are discussing these subjects.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Israeli-Palestinian. What has to happen between the Israelis and the Palestinians?

[Husayn] Between the Israelis and the Palestinians, we hope that we will see progress. I don't think that we have seen very much of that. I believe, at the same time, that some ground has been covered. Many taboos were removed from the way. Many doors were opened. But, probably, what is missing is some idea clearly put across as far as our Palestinian brothers are concerned in terms of what the ultimate solution to the problem is likely to be, something that they can accept and live with. If that were to happen at some point in the near future, I believe the movement on the transitional arrangements agreed before, or addressed before, or put as a subject would be much easier.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, there is a consensus that this process will not move or [words indistinct] American role. We heard a great deal about the American role [words indistinct] since the beginning of the peace process [word indistinct] in 1967. What is your assessment of what the American role should be? You had a chance with [words indistinct] Do you have some sort of a roadmap, given your experience in the region, that you could share with the American administration? [words indistinct]

[Husayn] With the American administration, yes. I believe that we are not apart at all in terms of the need for positive movement, and I believe that it's not my right to say exactly what will happen. But, I believe that the United States will play an active role in the times ahead. This administration has just taken over, a short while ago. Already, we have seen more of an interest than would have been normal in the initial phases in terms of all the discussions. So far, we had the visit of the secretary of state to the area itself and we have a commitment of our friends to be full partners and to be involved in helping all move toward the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace. So, beyond that, I can't say very, very much, indeed. But, I believe we see eye to eye on a lot of matters.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Your Majesty, do you see [words indistinct]. or do you see that things have reached a point where, perhaps, U.S. involvement has to be [words indistinct] deadlocked in the actual negotiations? [words indistinct] talk of the United States would play an active role, what is it that you really hope it would do?

[Husayn] Let me put it in another way. I think that the answer is the following: The most important ingredient in my view is the feeling of an overwhelming majority of people on either side of the divide that this is it, this is the last chance, this is the time to address this problem once and for all. So, we are not in a Cold War situation.

We are facing realities. We are facing the needs and the demands of people for their rights to live in a different atmosphere and under different conditions. [Words indistinct]. But, at the same time, a beginning has been made and the United States hopefully will be involved in helping both sides make progress. By both sides, I mean Palestinian-Israeli, Arab-Israeli. And I think that the determination to do so is there.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] I have spent a decade watching you deal with various peace process scenarios that came up. And time and time again, you were often frustrated in your negotiations with the Palestinians to reach some kind of a joint understanding to move forward. And now, we are watching the Israelis being terribly frustrated dealing with the Palestinian negotiating team. The Americans have been terribly frustrated dealing with the negotiating team, which is under many pressures. In your wisdom and in your vast experience with dealing with various Palestinian negotiating scenarios, what advice have you given to the Americans? And what advice would you give to the Israelis about how to proceed with a delegation that seems hopelessly divided at times and unable to make a decision? What could break this logjam?

[Husayn] I would like to say at the outset that those who have joined this delegation, particularly from the occupied territories, have shown great physical and moral courage and commitment to peace. It is only natural, at the same time, that there should be worries and concerns that the problem of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil is not addressed adequately, or that sight is lost of the end result. I believe this is probably the key element in this equation. So, anything that may happen to clarify, or at least put across what this end result is likely to be would help very, very much indeed in terms of the arrangements that have to be underway as rapidly as possible, and on which there has been delay so far.

[Reporter] Your Majesty: I [words indistinct] to ask you [words indistinct]. What is your assessment of [words indistinct]? And could you be more specific on what kind of changes in the Electoral Law [words indistinct] idea toward giving moderate forces more (?gains).

[Husayn] I am in the position in which I am neither for moderate forces, nor for extremist forces, nor for any forces. I am for all Jordanians and their sharing equal rights. And I believe that as far as the coming elections are concerned, I did point out much earlier than now to something that I believe ought to be addressed, and that is the question of the possibility of one person, one vote, as opposed to the law that permitted one person to elect several members or to cast his vote in favor of several members to be represented in parliament. So, this is something that we are addressing. Another aspect is the age issue. Should it 19 or 18. These are some of the very small but important adjustments that might occur or not occur, depending on this dialogue which is going to take place very soon.

[Reporter] If I could just follow up. There are some people or observers who say that the forces of moderation would stand about a chance if Your Majesty would make it as clear [words indistinct] difficult for the forces of moderation to have [words indistinct]. Is that [words indistinct] out of the question?

[Husayn] It is out of the question in a sense, because, I suppose [words indistinct] made me the father figure, as far as Jordan is concerned. And again, I am not for or against anyone. And I am proud to work with Jordanians regardless of their origins. And the Constitution, on which the National Charter is based, speaks of Jordanians being equal in terms of rights and responsibilities. Hence, this problem of this particular law. So, there have been suggestions it should be discussed in this parliament, which has already ended its last normal session. But, my feeling is that it should be discussed with the schools of political thought who put together the National Charter, a much broader, disinterested, probably, group, in terms of the upcoming elections and the individuals involvement. So, hopefully, this is what we will address within the coming period before the next elections.

[Reporter] Sir, do you think that (?belief) and control by Islamic fundamentalist [words indistinct] democracy. I ask the question of someone who in the past has been willing to take quite radical measures to protect Jordanian sovereignty and integrity.

[Husayn] And here, let me answer, sir, by saying that my belief is in Jordanians, in their maturity, in their ability to discern what is in their best interests. So, in this context, I can't say that I've ever approved of the term fundamentalism or fundamentalists because we are Muslims and we're proud of it. Yet, at the same time Jordan is the home of many. Pluralism is part of our lives and one cannot generalize. There are some (?French) extreme elements here and there in this world who are, may be the title might be different to what the actions are. Islam is a religion of tolerance. We start every prayer and every recitation of the Holy Koran: In the name of God, the merciful, and the compassionate. We call, at the end of every prayer, for the blessings of God on the prophet Muhammad and as it was, God's blessing on Abraham, the father of all prophets. So there is much that is not understood about where we are and what truly we are. Part of it is the fault of history, I suppose, and ignorance, and part of it is the result of frustration that is prevalent in some parts of the world, and anger and part of it, may be a desire to grab power. But, true Islam is what we believe in and will defend always.

My interest in Jordan is to reach the people, to reach everyone, the electorate in other words, and to ensure that he knows or she knows what responsiblity she bears or he bears in terms of our life, in terms of who he casts his votes to in the future and the success or failure. Failure would be devastating not only to us in Jordan but to what we are trying to do in presenting an example to others in the region, and success is something entirely different. What we are trying to achieve is a sense of an individual feeling that he counts, that he makes a difference, to give him the right that others have in this world, not only in Jordan, but hopefully, eventually in our entire region. If and when this happens, I believe that that area can be in a far better situation than it ever has been in certainly my lifetime and in this century.

[Reporter] Your Majesty [words indistinct] question. Jordan has been a success, a relative success so far in (?blending) Islamic [word indistict] this year accomodating (?both). To what extent are other countries going to be as successful, especially in light of the Algerian (?experience)?

[Husayn] I can't say much about others, but I'd certainly like to see Jordan make it and prove that the people can come together, can [word indistinct] as was the case in terms of the National Charter, respect of the constitution, and can build a better future for themselves. If we succeed in that, I think that we would have helped others to look at an example that works.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you think that the United states is still punishing your country for your stance towards Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait, the United States is still withholding some aid? That's the first question, and the second question is do you share the U.S. perception that there can be no stability in the Gulf as long as Saddam Husayn is in power.

[Husayn] (?Off the record) or on the record? [laughter]

[Reporter] You can do a little of both if you [word indistinct, more laughter]

[Husayn] No, I don't believe that the United States continues to have the same misconceptions or misunderstandings with us that may have been the case in the past.

And if that were the case and it was, it's very regrettable that this should have been so. And obviously, we still have a problem with you because you still believe that we supported Iraq or the Iraqi leadership in the recent crisis. We never did. And I believe others in the region and in the world will understand that in time. We sought, once and for all let me clear this if I can, to play our role within that region, which we believe is perfectly legitimate, to try to reverse what had happened, which we never condoned, peacefully. And I think there were many throughout the world and even the United States who might have felt the same way at the time. We were never supporters of the invasion of any country by any country in our region, and we will never be at any time. We were never for the interference in the internal affairs of any country, and we will never accept that at any time. We have suffered from that in the past ourselves. As far as Iraq was concerned, we took them for their word when at Arab summits, time and again, their leadership made it clear, then, that it was against the use of force by Arabs against Arabs or the interference by Arabs in the affairs of each other. Any notion or idea that we were a part of or a party to or were knowledgeable about the event before it happened is totally wrong. We were concerned for life, we were concerned for resources, we were concerned for the environment, we were concerned for the after effects of a terrible war in terms of the time it was going to take to heal the wounds.

And as far as I am concerned, I have made it very, very clear in every way that I could to the Iraqi leadership that, and in particular and immediately after the end of the hostilities, that in my view enough was enough and that the Iraqi people should come first. I still believe that, and my concern has been for people and for their future and for their right to live, a people who have endured prior to this recent disaster eight years of a terrible war, which again caught us by surprise. And we and the United States and the rest of the world, certainly most of it, supported Iraq then. And then, this recent disaster. So, this is where we stand. We have no reason to be anything but, I believe, having a feeling that we did our very best to avert a tragedy and to reverse a disaster peacefully if we could.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you spoke earlier [words indistinct] the Arab countries. In your opinion, how far [words indistinct] Iraq? And what....?

[Husayn, interrupting] Do I wish, if you ask me, for Iraq? I wish for Iraq and the Iraqis an opportunity for a national reconciliation. I wish for the Iraqi people a chance to enjoy true democracy, to enjoy pluralism, to enjoy respect for human rights. I wish for the Iraqi people to be able to, somehow, join the family of nations as soon as possible, and to take their place amongst them under these conditions and within that context. And I can only hope and pray that this will happen as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, is there any role for Saddam Husayn [words indistinct] Iraq?

[Husayn] Well, I have said time and again, sir, that I have never personalized issues, and I wouldn't wish to do so. But, I believe that this leadership has made enough errors and mistakes. And I have, before I answer this question, or as I have done and answered this question before, I have made it quite clear directly, through any channel that was available to me to the leadership of Iraq that what matters to us is the Iraqi people.

[Reporter] Does that mean you would like to see some kind of elections, some kind of (?free) elections [words indistinct] reconciliation you talk about your concern for the Iraqi people seems only able to be realized if there is some kind of free elections [words indistinct].

[Husayn] Democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, and national reconciliation in Iraq is what I hope the Iraqis will come to enjoy as soon as possible, through whatever means (?that) would achieve that end. What we wish for ourselves is what we wish for others [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Your Majesty, when you spoke about the peace process before, you talked about problems, but you nevertheless said you were optimistic. Could you please explain what is the basis for your optimism, given the current (?impasse) [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] Sir, we do frequently meet in our part of the world with our Arab brethren and partners and with people who care. I have a feeling, as I said earlier on that on either side of the divide, there are a vast majority of people that believe that this is it, that we must resolve this problem. And the answer is very simple. What is the alternative? The alternative is too horrible to contemplate.

[Reporter] If I may follow up, do you have a specific opinion on [words indistinct] can get us to that point of success [words indistinct].

[Husayn] I think a beginning was made, and that proceeded this far, and it is time to reexamine the reasons why we are not proceeding faster. And I think that it will all probably point to the need for Palestinians to have some impression as to where the end result of the exercise is so that we see more rapid progress, and so that we deny those who are poised on either side of the divide the opportunity to scuttle the efforts for peace.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I think recently Secretary of State Christopher described Iran as an outlaw nation, or words to that effect. I wonder whether you would share that assessment of the Iranians. And if not, how you would describe them? And what advice you might offer the United States to improve relations with Iran?

[Husayn] There is not much that I can say in this regard, because you say words of that nature, and I don't know what the words were really, because a lot of [words indistinct]. So, I'm sorry I can't comment on the statements of the secretary if they were made in that regard.

That is his position, and that is his approach. I think there are lots of fears, obviously, in our area and in the world. But, if you ask me my opinion, I believe that obviously Iran is not a threat to the United States as such. If it is the question of the Arab area, then I am, quite honestly, very much tired with the impression that we seem to give within the Arab world of being afraid of this or that or the other. I think that we should hopefully come to a time when we realize that the reasons for any fears, legitimate or otherwise, may be in what we haven't done ourselves within the Arab homeland to ensure that these fears are of no real significance. And in that area, I believe that the more we move towards giving our people a chance to raise their heads with pride, with a feeling of belonging, with a feeling of partaking in shaping their future, the closer we would be to a point when there should be no fears or dangers threatening us. That is where, I hope, that Jordan can contribute a little bit, at least, through the example it can set to others through what it is trying to achieve and prove [word indistinct] and good work. As far as Iran is concerned, we have normal relations with Iran. But, I can only say that in that regard as well, there has never been any contact at a high enough level for us to know exactly where we stand, and where would they stand. And maybe what we need most in the times ahead and in the aftermath of almost an earthquake, which was the collapse of the Soviet Union and all the changes that have occurred and continue to occur in our world, is a greater opportunity to try to understand more deeply what are the threats, what are the problems that we are facing, and to come to terms with what needs to be done to face them adequately, beginning always with oneself and where we are, and then looking at others.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, some people have said that democracy and Middle Eastern societies are incompatible, and I've even heard this said in your own country because Middle Easterners, through culture and through Islam, they are looking for a leader, they are looking for [word indistinct] and they do not understand what participation means, what responsibility means, they haven't [words indistinct]. When I was last in Jordan a year ago, many people (?worried) to me that Jordanians wouldn't be able to form (?a variety) of political parties because they would just be tribal [words indistinct] they didn't want to (?take) part. I am curious whether you think that democracy in your country is going to (?grow a root) so the people understand what the word means and come to understand more, and whether political parties are (?viable), and accordingly, what is the role of [word indistinct] monarchy vis-a-vis democracy. Some people have said that only in Jordan could there be democracy because you decided to [word indistinct]. Does it take a strong leader to make democracy, and then if you make democracy, what happens to the strong leader?

[Husayn] Well, absolute democracy I believe, it is free for all to try to topple the leader [king and journalists laugh]. It's as simple as that. Whatever the leader is, and wherever he is. So, why not reverse the process and give people their chance to develop, and evolve, and understand what their responsibilities are, and what their rights are. I am very proud and happy that this is what is happening in Jordan. I don't believe that in these elections, probably, political parties will be what they should be in terms of a natural evolution that will probably see many parties, and then those diminish in numbers, but become more important in terms of their ability to contribute. So, we are on the way. And again, people speak in our part of the world of symbols. I think that we are not looking for symbols. We are looking for the real people, and hopefully their participation in shaping the future in a proper way.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, [words indistinct] mentioned earlier [words indistinct].

[Husayn] Whatever I advocate or don't advocate, sir, is not going to matter one way or the other. And, here, I would like to say very categorically that Jordan is adhering to the Security Council resolutions and is implementing them in the fullest possible way, regardless of our feelings on this matter. We do not see eye to eye with this leadership in Iraq. We haven't seen eye to eye, before the war or after the war. Our main concern is the Iraqi people, and the unity and integrity of Iraq. Because if that again fragments, I believe that we will be facing a new situation in the region that also cannot be described in advance. So, we are worried for people.

And the question is one that is worth looking at in the following context: When will an Iraqi have a chance to sit back and say: Well, what has happened to us over all these years? Where is responsibility? Where does it lie? Eight years of war with Iran. We lost territory. We returned it. We embarked on another adventure, and we withdrew, and more Iraqi territory was ceded, and we have suffered so much in terms of our economy, in terms of the country, in terms of all the progress that had been achieved. I don't think that the Iraqi, as yet, has reached the situation where he can sit and ask these questions, and arrive at whatever conclusions he might arrive at. But, maybe, this will happen sometime.

And, I'd like to point something that maybe my friends are unaware of. I've been in this position of responsibility for 40 years plus. On the second of May 1953, my late cousin, with whom I went to school—second cousin—Faysal of Iraq assumed his constitutional powers in Iraq, the same day as I in Jordan. Further down the line, we formed a union. He was the head of that union. In the process leading to that, we discussed what should happen and I was willing to cede the leadership to my cousin and to be the second in line, in return for equal representation in the union parliament and government that was going to come up between Jordan and Iraq. In 1958, he and his family, my family, were murdered in a bloody revolution. Earlier on, members of my family were involved in a movement in the Arab World for its freedom in the face of oppression and in the face of attempts to rob us of our Arab identity; my great grandfather, my great uncles, my grandfather, and at that time there were no borders as there are at this point or had been for a number of years. So, in a sense, we are involved. We know Iraq. We know the area from which we come. We know the hopes that were there, that have changed and modified, and altered with the passage of time. I earlier spoke of the possibility, in times to come, of something like the European experience being the answer to the aspirations of Arabs in different parts of the Arab World.

I refer to 1958 because I realized, after that, that the Iraqis wanted to try something else. I never took what happened personally. But, obviously, there were many people who were attached to us, and their loyalty continued beyond. You could liken them to opposition outside a country now. In other words, Iraq. I have nothing that I can say for people or what they choose. But, it is fair to say I believe that what eventually will make a difference is the people in the country itself. I would not detract from elements outside the country in terms of their credibility within that country. But, I would not like to say that I would deal with them as a coherent group, or treat them with the same yardstick. We meet a lot of Iraqis. We are in touch with a lot of Iraqis, both inside and outside Iraq, and we will continue to do so. So, you know, I do suggest that, in my view at least, it might not be easy for me to meet with the organization you referred to as a whole in Jordan, or welcome them although I am in touch with many of them.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, let's just follow up briefly on Jim's question. If the Iraqi leadership, as we all know, is so repressive, then these people can't really exist in Iraq. I don't quite understand why you feel those who are outside Iraq, somehow, are less, have less, credibility than potential members of this new society you'd like Iraq to create, than those inside, and why you can't, you wouldn't, encourage them?

[Husayn] I didn't say I wouldn't encourage them. I didn't say I would interfere with them. I only said that I cannot take at face value the suggestion that one should follow suit and do exactly the same as some other leader may do in our region because he believes that that might be the right approach. So, I know Iraqis, probably closer than many, both in our region and beyond, and I would know who I would meet and who I wouldn't meet. So, the whole thing is really ridiculous. I mean, what's the point of bringing up an issue of meeting the Iraqi opposition in Jordan? Then what does that achieve in the way of a change?

[Reporter] Well, it will give us a sense of whether you consider them committed to democracy, pluralism, and the other goals you have listed for Iraq?

[Husayn] There are elements amongst them that I have the fullest possible respect and confidence in. But there are elements amongst them that I haven't, and so, this is precisely where I stand.

[Reporter] We can certainly appreciate that, sir. But, with all due respect, I would like to point out that the Kurdish members, I know, are definitely inside Iraq, and not outside Iraq?

[Husayn] Well, how do you know that I am not in touch with the Kurdish members?

[Reporter] As members of the INC [Iraqi National Congress]?

[Husayn] As Iraqis who are people who have their own views and their own policies, and may not be very happy with the situation that is going on there. I am not for the separation of Kurdistan, by the way. I am not for a separatist movement. But, there are Iraqi leaders outside and inside that I respect very, very much.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you have said that U.S.-Jordanian relations are experiencing spring renewal. What can you tell us about Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, particularly with Saudi Arabia. Are they still in winter?

[Husayn] I think we might be approaching spring, sir. [laughter]

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I noticed that you lit a cigarette and this immediately brought to mind a question about your health. The queen is looking at you with a litle bit of distress, right now. [laughter] Could you please tell us, Your Majesty, you look quite healthy, how is your health?

[Husayn] As I sit here, I hope that this will not been seen in Mayo, [laughter] where I shall be going in a short while to have my checkup, it will be just over six months since the last time I was there. There have been all sorts of stories about my health. I think that it is in the hands of God where one's life begins and ends, and I have always felt that way. But, I have been assured there that everything is fine, and that the cancer has been removed totally and is not a problem anymore. To those who wish to know more, I never had any chemotherapy, and the last time I was there for a checkup, I was given a clean bill of health. So, that is where we stand, and I hope that this next visit will confirm this.

## Confers With U.S. Defense Secretary

*JN2306061393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has met U.S. Defense Secretary Mr. Les Aspin as part of his majesty's talks with U.S. officials in Washington. His majesty and an accompanying delegation arrived at the Defense Department last night and were welcomed by the defense secretary, Chief of the Joint Staff Colin Powell, and a number of other senior officers.

The two sides later held a plenary session attended by Mr. Aspin, his deputy (Barry William), Colin Powell, the

U.S. ambassador in Amman, and several other senior officials from the Pentagon.

From the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's Military Secretary Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, and other senior officials.

The two sides exchanged views on different regional and international issues and reviewed relations between the two countries.

The U.S. defense secretary valued his majesty's wise leadership in defending human issues and in his majesty's quest to bring about peace.

### Meets With U.S. House Members

*JN2306121793 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met in Washington yesterday with the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Thomas Foley and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives Lee Hamilton. Discussion at the meeting dealt with issues of joint interest on the regional and international levels, particularly the peace process, democracy, and human rights.

At a dialogue with the House members, particularly Foreign Relations and Foreign Aid committee members, his majesty said the world around us is changing. We are heading towards a new phase. We should defend freedom and be committed to the principles for which our generations have fought for.

His majesty pointed out that democratic process in Jordan and the comprehensive dialogue which stemmed from the National Charter is the basis for participative democracy whereby people can formulate their present and future.

He said Jordan's democratic experiment is an example to be followed. His majesty said Jordan has accomplished great achievements despite its meager resources and the challenges facing it.

Speaking about the peace process, his majesty said time is opportune now to achieve just and comprehensive peace which can be accepted by our future generations. This opportunity should not be missed. The U.S. support of the peace process has now become more active and this strengthens hope that progress can be achieved on the various tracks of the peace process.

His majesty said that dialogue is the means for further understanding, respect, and cooperation among peoples and that freedom, democracy, and the respect of human rights is the basis for building civilized communities.

Attending the dialogue were the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's military secretary, the minister of planning, the minister of finance, and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington.

### Correction to King Attacks Iraqi Leaders

*WA22134293*

The following is a rerun of the incomplete item subheaded "Attacks Iraqi Leaders" published in the Jordan Section of the 22 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 31, column two:

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn Bin-Talal has voiced satisfaction with his talks with President Bill Clinton. He described the return of bilateral relations to their pre-Gulf war level as the beginning of spring. At a meeting with news correspondents, King Husayn welcomed the U.S. President's resolve to personally contribute to the peace process between the Arabs and Israel. The Jordanian monarch emphasized, however, that the time has come to attain tangible results in the negotiations. Noting that progress has so far been slow on all tracks, the king warned that the loss of this last opportunity would mean a gloomy future for this region.

King Husayn said he believes the time has come to study why the peace process has not achieved further progress. He said that at this stage the Palestinians are entitled to have a clearer idea about the nature of the final settlement.

The Jordanian monarch affirmed that a satisfactory accord on the working agenda has been reached on the Jordanian-Israeli track. He added: However, no agreement will be signed until some progress is achieved on the Palestinian track. He said that he has empowered the Jordanian delegation to discuss everything and to reach an understanding on most of the issues. He reiterated, however, that definitive peace will not be attained unless it comprises all the other tracks.

King Husayn repeated his strong criticism of the Iraqi leadership. In what appeared to be an attempt to burn his last bridges with this leadership, the king said that this leadership has committed enough mistakes, and that he was not in agreement with it either before or after the war. He again denied that Jordan had any prior knowledge of the decision to invade Kuwait, or that Jordan had supported, or supports the use of force to settle Arab differences. He said he hopes the Iraqis will have the opportunity to achieve national accord and enjoy real democracy, plurality, and respect for human rights. He added: Our major concern is the Iraqi people and Iraq's territorial integrity. King Husayn said he is in contact with many of the Iraqi opposition figures inside and outside Iraq.

Regarding Jordan's stand on the sanctions imposed on Iraq, King Husayn said: I want to state explicitly that Jordan abides by the UN Security Council resolutions and is implementing them in the most effective manner possible.

King Husayn hinted that some amendments would be made to the Jordanian Election Law before legislative elections are held late this year, but after consultations with the various political forces in the country. He emphasized his commitment to pursuing and developing the democratic process in Jordan, stressing that he firmly believes the people have a right to participate in deciding their future.

## Paper Reaffirms Arab Commitment to Peace, Democracy

*JN2306124193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jun 93 pp 1, 24*

[Editorial: "We Are Committed to Peace and Democracy"]

[Text] During his meeting with U.S. media representatives, His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed that Jordan is committed to the peace march and that he supports every effort to push the peace process forward, render it a success, and achieve its desired results in terms of a just and comprehensive peace that is acceptable to and can be defended by future generations.

The reconfirmation of such a commitment to the course of peace comes amidst the ongoing negotiations in Washington and in light of persistent diplomatic efforts to emerge from the vicious circle of negotiations in order to very clearly emphasize that the Arabs, headed by Jordan, are still adhering to the peace option and are willing to do whatever it takes to achieve that. This is contrary to current Israeli claims which attempt to depict the Arabs as the party that is obstructing these talks.

Jordan adopts the option of peace given that it embodies one of the realities of this age. It also adopts the option of democracy and human rights given that this too is one of the expressions of this age, the basic features of which Jordan understood at an early stage and proceeded with in a solid and strong manner. Jordan did so while realizing that all this would present a human democratic model that can be emulated in this part of the world.

There is no doubt that U.S. support, in its capacity as the sole superpower, for the peace option and its implementation away from the double standard approach and mentality should reinforce the democratic trend in the region as well as the trend toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in which the United States would appear as a party that wants to achieve such peace through cosponsorship and active participation within the framework of the ongoing peace process.

As we reiterate our commitment to the option of a just and comprehensive peace and reaffirm that our adherence to democracy is final, we would also really like to see a more active U.S. role, not only in giving momentum to peace efforts, but in reinforcing democracies and basic liberties in this region, which, contrary to most other part of the world, still very much lacks peace and democracy.

## Acting Premier on Media Responsibility, Peace Talks

*PM2206144593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 6*

[Unattributed interview with Acting Prime Minister and Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you envisage Jordan's press and information media in the next phase, particularly after King Husayn's statements and bearing in mind the government's tasks as outlined in the letter of designation?

[Abu-Nuwwar] I very much believe in what King Husayn said to me, that we, Jordanians, should to the best of our ability move toward what is good and proper with love and amity for every brother in the Arab world and the world at large. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But can you prevent excesses by daily or weekly publications or the partisan press not in line with what you profess?

[Abu-Nuwwar] True, there is freedom of the press and I have promised his majesty the king that I would not interfere in it or in its affairs. [passage omitted]

Some may stray from the sound course although meaning well, or with ill intentions, or for other reasons. At first we would use the good word and an amicable approach in dealing with such developments because we will not, under the law, accept defamation of any fraternal Arab state, official, establishment, or individual. I am sure that all our Jordanian press family will respond, but whoever persists in folly and strays will be effectively dealt with by the Jordanian press family and Press Syndicate.

Our position applies to all Arab states without exception and to all Arab citizens in the world. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you assess the past peace negotiation rounds and what are your expectations for the 10th round?

[Abu-Nuwwar] Jordan has participated in these negotiations by general popular decision, and its successive governments have continued to participate in these negotiations which, in our view, are held for the implementation of international law and restoration of all Arab legitimate rights undiminished. [passage omitted]

Despite the time that has elapsed, we are still at the beginning of the road and the negotiations will be protracted, difficult, and substantial because they cover major fundamental issues which cannot be resolved in a matter of months or even years. We will not forfeit a grain of soil nor will we give up our right to even a single drop of water.

We hope the negotiations will be easier than we expect and we hope the Palestinian people will be treated humanely and in accordance with international conventions and human traditions instead of the killing and the starvation tactics even against children as we see on the television screens.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view Israel's peace intentions? Will it really abide by the international law you have mentioned?

[Abu-Nuwwar] We have gone to the negotiations with genuine goodwill and we expect Israel to respond to that goodwill and not to continue to treat the Palestinian people so severely, as we see every day.

Peace can be achieved not through agitation but through goodwill, objectivity, clean dialogue, and adherence to international law. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] King Husayn says that amendment of the Electoral Law will be done through a comprehensive national dialogue, but the deputies say it will be done through parialmentary authority. How, as a government, do you reconcile the king's wish and the deputies' demands? That, as you know, is a disputed issue with a beginning but no discernible end.

[Abu-Nuwwar] The cabinet has not, to this moment, discussed any measure of any kind for the amendment of the Electoral Law or the promulgation of a new law to replace the old one, and no committee has been formed for that purpose. We have the Constitution, and the government has sworn before the king that it will abide by it. [passage omitted]

It is too early to talk about that, and we should all approach it with the political wisdom, calm, and care it deserves from every member of the public.

## President Thanks UAE President for $5-Million Aid

*NC2306040293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has telephoned Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], to thank him for UAE aid of $5 million to Lebanon to rebuild the presidential palace in B'abda, the renovation of which will cost approximately $10 million. The UAE has granted Lebanon a $25-million low-interest loan to be used to build homes for tens of thousands of displaced Lebanese families. This assistance is the first from the UAE to Lebanon since 1990.

## Resistance, Israelis Exchange Fire in South

### Villages Shelled

*NC2206122193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Israeli occupation forces shelled several villages in Bint Jubayl and al-Nabatiyah districts this morning. At 1115, these forces shelled the villages of Bra'shit, Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Shaqra', and Safad al-Battikh.

UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] sources reported that over 100 shells were fired on these villages. Afterward, the occupation forces shelled the villages of Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr.

### Mortars Fired at UNIFIL Post

*TA2206125393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Severals mortars were fired at noon at an UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] post in the Bra'shit area in the eastern sector of the security zone. Nobody was hurt. SLA soldiers returned fire at the sources of fire. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz notes that mortars were also lobbed this morning at SLA outposts in the area. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA guns returned fire.

### Sniper Fire Reported

*NC2206190793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpts] The latest reports from the south this afternoon indicate that the Frun-Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr road is coming under intense sniper fire from Tallat 'Alman. A civilian car was hit, but the passengers escaped miraculously. Civil fighters and inhabitants have put out the fires that broke out in the groves and fields in 'Ayta al-Jabal, Frun, and Bra'shit. The fires destroyed vast areas of olive groves and crops.

Israeli artillery shelling of villages in the central sector at noon today wounded two people, burned crops, and caused severe damage to homes and property. From noon today, the occupation troops heavily bombarded the villages of Haddathah, Tibnin, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Shaqra, and Safad al-Battikh, causing fires to break out, especially in wheat fields and olive groves in 'Ayta al-Jabal and Bra'shit. Citizen Husayn 'Abbas was slightly injured, and Jamil Husayn Shihab was also wounded in the shelling of Bra'shit. They were taken to the Tibnin government hospital for treatment. [passage omitted]

In another security development, Israeli warplanes overflew al- Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah this afternoon, breaking the sound barrier. Earlier, Israeli helicopters overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, drawing ground fire from the Lebanese Army units stationed in the area. [passage omitted]

### UNIFIL Forces Under Alert

*NC2206201193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Reports from the south indicate an Israeli infantry force advanced toward 'Alman-al-Shumariyah hill, 50 meters from al Qa'qa'iah Bridge between Frun and Qa'qa'iat al-Jisr, amid a massive alert among the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] units, which assembled vehicles in an attempt to halt the advance of the Israeli force. The UNIFIL forces blocked the road and asked citizens to be cautious and alert.

[In a related report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 22 Jun adds the following: "UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel said Hizballah fired about 30 mortar shells on Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army] positions in Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun. This afternoon, Hizballah fired around 10 shells on Lahd forces in al-Shumariyah-'Alman.

["Israeli warplanes overflew the south today, and Israeli gunboats cruised off the coast between Tyre and al-Naqurah."]

## Two Wounded, One Killed Planting Bomb Near Monastery

*NC2306081993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Our correspondent in the north says that a land mine exploded last night as three men were trying to plant it under the bridge leading to the al-Balamand Monastery. The three were taken to the Islamic Hospital in Tripoli.

Since dawn today, the Lebanese Army has been raiding houses in al-Qalamun. The Army has manned roadblocks on the Tripoli-al- Qalamun and Anfah-al-Qalamun roads, checking the identity of motorists against name lists. The army has detained 15 people so far, according to our correspondent.

In a telephone call to our radio, a military source said that at 2300 on 22 June, an explosive charge went off near the al-Balamand Monastery, injuring three individuals. The three, 'Abdallah al-Hulwah, 'Abd-al-Hakim Hulayhil, and Bilal al-Kasm, were taken to hospital, where one of them, al-Kasm, later died. The two others have been placed in police custody. Army investigation teams have started working on the case.

## Paper Says Israel Still Not Taking Talks Seriously

*JN1806094493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jun 93*

[Press review]

[Text] The commentaries and analyses of AL-THAWRAH, the only paper published today because AL-BA'TH and TISHRIN are both on holiday, focus on Israel's maneuvering and constant obstruction of the peace process, asserting that peace can only be achieved through a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Under the headline "Peace Through Complete Withdrawal," AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary: During the 10th round of talks, Israel proves once again that it does not want a serious and genuine peace and that the only thing it wishes to achieve from the peace process is to make political and material gains on the various tracks to secure its continued occupation of large parts of Arab territories and to usurp a substantial part of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that peace cannot be achieved by skipping over basic facts and requirements and by discussing details and outcomes, which should wait until agreement is reached on proposals and principles, and until these proposal and principles are implemented. Nor can peace be achieved by dividing principles and foundations and tailoring them to fit Israel's designs. When Israel enters the 10th round with the security arrangements file, it looks like someone trying to put the horse before the cart. The basic principle in the peace process is to set a date for, and to start the complete Israeli withdrawal. Security issues can then be discussed, keeping in mind that the Arabs are the ones who need security because for over 40 years, the Arabs were, and still are the victims of Israeli threats, terrorism, usurpation of rights, and expansion in their lands. Israel's repeated attacks against Lebanon and oppressive measures against the Palestinian people confirm this fact. Hence, Israel's insistence on taking advantage of the peace negotiations to make political and material gains at the Arabs' expense shows that its obstruction of the peace process, its progress and objective, is not over yet.

AL-THAWRAH explains that the Israeli efforts in the peace process focus only on securing gains instead of discussing the basic principles and determining how to apply and abide by them in order to achieve tangible progress in the peace process.

The paper stresses the need for the U.S. sponsor to intervene and fulfill his pledges about the full partner role in order to help the peace process reach its regional and world objective—a genuine peace—and not the Israeli objective—a partial settlement that would maintain the volatile situation in the region.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: If the U.S. sponsor is concerned about achieving the objective of the peace process on the basis of the international terms of reference, which he acknowledged before any one else, that concern must be confirmed at this stage through tangible pressure applied to the party that seeks to obstruct peace, lay hurdles on the path of the peace process, and kill any hope of reaching a just and comprehensive peace that will restore security and stability to the region.

On the same subject, the paper says in another commentary: The meetings of the 10th round, which ended its third day yesterday, have not given the impression that this was any different from previous rounds. Nor have these meetings convinced any one that Israel, with its behavior and practices, is taking these talks seriously and wants to achieve progress on the path of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Israel's political language on peace has not changed. Instead, it has become more intransigent and continued to reject the peace process terms of reference, thus disavowing the principles on which the Madrid conference was based, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula.

The paper refers to Yitzhaq Rabin's recent provocative statements in which he rejects withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the occupied Arab territories and denies the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The paper also notes Israel's daily, growing terroristic and aggressive practices against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, which the world has become accustomed to seeing during every round of talks, and which have become an unwavering course of action and strategy.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH stresses the need for the U.S. sponsor to assume a balanced role that supports the credibility and resolutions of the international legitimacy that commit Israel to a complete withdrawal and oblige it to respond to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

## Radio Commentary: Israel 'Must Face the Truth'

*JN1806154193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Although the first week of the 10th round of talks in Washington has not produced any results, Israel will soon have to face the truth. Its delegations to the talks have been left in a very tight corner. Its alleged peace proposals have been exposed as the attempts to undermine the talks that they really are. By declaring that the Israeli delegation has not been authorized to discuss the issue of total withdrawal from the Golan and by failing to respond to the fifth clause of the Syrian document on withdrawal, the leader of the Israeli side to the talks with Syria has publicly acknowledged that Rabin's government is not serious about peace and is participating in the negotiations only out of deference to the United States and to deflect the anger of world public opinion.

If the Israeli side is not authorized to discuss the main issue of the peace process after 10 rounds and 20 months, when will it be authorized? The Washington talks can no longer tolerate any procrastination. Total withdrawal is the core of the U.S.-Russian initiative and the Security Council's resolutions. Without total withdrawal, the Arabs will not offer peace.

The intransigent Israeli position may surprise many international circles. These have long believed the Tel Aviv rulers want peace and that only the Arabs stand in the way of an overall Middle East settlement. Tel Aviv's rulers have been pursuing their misleading and deceptive policy since 1948, while raising a hue and cry about their desire for peace, and asking every world leader to intervene with the Arabs to hold authentic peace talks.

As soon as the Arabs responded to the U.S. peace proposals and joined the Madrid conference and the Washington rounds, the Israelis retreated from their stated position of the past 40 years and worked strenuously to obstruct and undermine prospects for peace, all while holding the other side responsible for the failure. But the Arabs foiled these attempts by patience and by always taking a positive position. As the truth became apparent, the Israelis were obliged to say that they have not been authorized to swap land for peace.

As usual, the Israelis tried to flood the 10th round with security proposals. But, the Arab delegations were waiting for them. The Arabs clearly explained that security issues can be discussed only after reaching an agreement on total withdrawal, based on the understanding that peace is the actual guarantor of security and stability in the region. Observers of the Arab-Israeli conflict know the Tel Aviv rulers have always used security as an excuse to launch expansionist wars and criminal aggressions. They are raising the security issue in the Washington talks to avoid the requirements of the peace process, first of which is withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of Palestinian rights.

It isn't unusual that the Israelis have brought security proposals to the three negotiating tracks. They demanded complicated security arrangements from Lebanon without declaring their readiness to withdraw from southern Lebanon and dissolve their agent army. They refused to discuss Jerusalem or the settlement issue in talks with the Palestinians. And, although the settlements occupy a large part of the West Bank territories, they retained their control of the rest of the Palestinian territories under security pretexts.

In their talks with Syria, they raised a group of premature security proposals to obscure their refusal to carry out total withdrawal from the Golan. They must face the truth, however. The Tel Aviv rulers can no longer raise the security issue while the Arabs are offering a peace that brings security. In exchange for peace, the Arabs want to regain their territories that were occupied by force. The Security Council's resolutions have guaranteed the Arabs' firm rights and declared the Israeli occupation to be illegal. These resolutions stressed the need to end that occupation, which is an aggression that conflicts with peace and threatens regional security. There will be no security and no peace without ending the occupation, regaining the territories occupied in 1967, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their freedom on their land and in their homeland.

## Afghanistan

### Rabbani Thanks UN Envoy for Aid, Assistance

*LD2206191693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Esteemed Prof Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, today received Sotirios Mousouris, special envoy of the UN secretary general to Afghanistan and Pakistan, at the Golkhana Palace of the state presidency.

Mr. Mousouris expressed the interest and satisfaction of the UN secretary general and that of himself concerning the establishment of security in Kabul city and the negotiated settlement of the country's problems. Mousouris also added that the UN secretary general recently held meetings with representatives of countries aiding Afghanistan, and asked them for urgent aid for Kabul's citizens and assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. His request was met with positive responses.

The special envoy of the UN secretary general added: In addition to the dispatch of two large convoys carrying foodstuff for Kabul's citizens, the UN secretary general wants UN workers to return gradually to Kabul to resume their work.

In reply, Borhanoddin Rabbani expressed thanks for the UN and expressed his pleasure at the recent activity of the UN secretary general in connection with attracting aid to Afghanistan.

The president assured the envoy that the Islamic State of Afghanistan will spare no efforts in successfully implementing the UN plan for humanitarian assistance and for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Topics concerning the improvement of (?trade), the socioeconomic situation in Afghanistan, and the role and cooperation of the United Nations in this regard were also discussed.

### Relief Convoys Arrive in Kabul

*BK2106160493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] Convoys carrying relief materials of immediate need have succeeded in reaching Kabul. A UN press release said in Islamabad today that the convoys carried with them 373 tonnes of wheat and flour, 10 tonnes of medicine, and 20,000 liters of oil for the homeless people of Kabul.

### Commanders Selection Committee Holds Meeting

*LD1906200993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Text] The commission on selection of provincial commanders held a meeting today at the Golkhana Palace of the presidency. The session was chaired by esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Shah Fazli, chief justice of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. At this session talks were held on draft guidelines regarding the commission's work and the guidelines on selection of commanders. The commission on selection of commanders emphatically informs all those members of the commission attached to the Jihadi formations that if they do not attend the coming sessions their names will be announced by the radio and television.

## Bangladesh

### Cabinet To Extend Nuclear Fuel Pact With U.S.

*BK2106134693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] The cabinet has decided to approve the Science and Technology Department's proposal to extend the 1981 cooperation agreement with the United States on peaceful use of nuclear fuel. The approval was given at a regular weekly cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the president's house today. Under the agreement, the United States and Bangladesh will cooperate in peaceful uses of nuclear fuel and exchange information on nuclear fuel, equipment, and materials. The meeting was attended by ministers and state ministers in charge of various ministries and departments.

### Foreign Debt Surpasses $12 Billion

*BK1806145793 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 12 Jun 93 p 1*

[By Shahjahan Sardar]

[Text] International assistance is gradually becoming expensive for Bangladesh as it is already overburdened with the responsibility of repaying huge loans. The Finance Ministry's economic survey report, presented in parliament by the finance minister as he announced the budget for fiscal year 1993-94, says that the burden has already become heavy for Bangladesh. The report further said that about 9.2 percent of total foreign exchange earnings and 14.9 percent of total export earnings made during the current fiscal year 1992-93 will be spent to repay medium- and long- term loans. It may be mentioned that in the fiscal year 1991-92, 17.7 percent of total export earnings and 9.2 percent of total foreign exchange earnings were spent to repay loans.

The economic survey report says that between 16 December 1971 and June 1993, the total aid pledged to Bangladesh was about $31.171 billion. But it received total assistance of $25.827 billion during that period. Up until June 1992, the total amount of aid provided to Bangladesh by different countries stood at $24.071 billion. Out of this amount, the total amount in grants is estimated at $11.75 billion while loans amounted to $12.321 billion. The donor countries may be grouped under five categories. These include countries that are members of the development committee, member countries of international donor agencies, OPEC member countries, centrally planned countries, and others. Bangladesh has received more assistance from countries that are members of the development committee. Among them Japan is the biggest aid donor to Bangladesh. It has received $3.322 billion from Japan.

It is true that these loans and grants have contributed to the economic development of Bangladesh but a reduction in the number of grants and an increase in short-term loans is gradually overburdoning the country. For Bangladesh, foreign assistance generally means medium- or long-term loans. The average interest rate on such loans is 1.5 percent while the time-limit for repayment is 39 years. Up until 30 June 1992 the total in outstanding loans to the country stood at $12.116 billion.

The survey further said that due to the expiry of the time-limit for repayment of certain loans extended in the early seventies, Bangladesh's burden has increased considerably. Even after certain countries waived some of these loans, Bangladesh's outstanding debt on expired loans which was only $17.5 million in 1973-74 has now increased to approximately $500 million. Under these circumstances, international assistance has become very costly for Bangladesh.

### Zia Inaugurates Export Processing Zone in Dhaka

*BK2006134093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called upon the local and foreign investors to invest in Bangladesh. She said this while inaugurating the second export processing zone of the country in Savar today. The prime minister said that her government will extend all possible assistance to the investors. She said the government has liberalized the industrial and investment policies of the country with a view to encourage foreign investors. The prime minister also stressed the need to maintain congenial atmosphere in the mills and factories of the country at any cost. She said it is the duty not only of the government but also of all patriotic citizens to maintain law and order in the country. Appreciating the services rendered by the officials and employees of the Export Processing Zone Authority in completing the development work of the export processing zone much ahead of schedule, the prime minister said this new zone will help in the rapid industrialization of the country.

This export processing zone named the Dhaka Export Processing Zone is located in 142 acres of land. It has 100 plots, each measuring 2,000 square meters.

## India

### Pakistan Defense Budget 'Cause for Concern'

*BK2306022693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Jun 93 p 9*

[Text] Islamabad—Going by Pakistan's current Defence budget, announced by Minister for Finance Sartaj Aziz in the National Assembly on Monday, India has some cause for guarded optimism.

The annual growth of this year's defence outlay of Rs[rupees] 89.10 billion over last year's Rs 82.15 billion is a mere 7.05 percent—a figure that does not even cover Pakistan's current inflation rate of close to 10 percent. This year's growth rate is thus consderably lower than the 11.20 percent registered in 1992- 93.

However, there are several factors that continue to provide cause for concern. For instance, Pakistan's 1993-94 defense outlay constitutes as much as 34.6 percent of the total expenditure—a high figure by any standards, although marginally lower than the corresponding figure of 37.54 percent for 1992-93. This anomaly becomes all the more evident when contrasted with the 14.67 percent, registered last year in India.

In an interview granted before the announcement of this year's budget Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan S.K. Lamba pointed to yet another discrepancy on the defence front in the subcontinent. In terms of per capita spending on defence, he pointed out, Pakistan's 1992-93 expenditure was as high as $27.74 (Rs 748.78) while India's was merely $7.61 (Rs 205.47). Viewing the issue within a somewhat larger time frame the anomaly becomes accentuated. Between 1987 and 1992 Pakistan's increase in the annual growth rate of defence expenditure has been 7.44 percent, whereas India's has been minus 4.68 percent.

The only way out to ensure peace and security on the subcontinent would seem to be an overall reduction in defence expenditure in both the countries. As Lamba put it "We can have bilateral discussions in a mutually agreed forum to discuss defence expenditure". India, he contended, was ready for it. But will Pakistan accept the offer?

### Amnesty International's 'Misplaced Idealism' Viewed

*BK2306035493 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Jun 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "Mockery of Human Rights"]

[Text] It is doubtful if the World Conference on Human Rights which began in Vienna on Monday will substantially further its avowed cause. It is difficult to resist such scepticism after the questionable refusal of no less a man than Pierre Sane, Secretary- General of Amnesty International, to attend the inaugural ceremony. The reason he gave was that a man was executed in Cairo on Sunday and Amnesty was trying to prevent yet another killing slated for this week. Sane's behaviour was characteristic of not a few leading lights of his organisation who suffer from a surfeit of self- righteousness. It also illustrates their tendency to adopt double standards. In the present case, the executed Egyptian was one of those Islamic terrorists for whom murder has been the main weapon. He was duly tried in accordance with the country's law, found guilty and sentenced to death. But this is of no consequence to Amnesty International. Such a perverse view of the promotion of human rights has also been reflected in its attitude to the murderous activities of fundamentalist militants in Kashmir sent by Pakistan in pursuit of its own political design.

Whether Amnesty International's sympathy for political terrorists around the world comes from misplaced idealism or deliberate mischief, the fact remains that the way it is purportedly defending human rights threatens to promote only one cause, namely, destabilisation of nation-states, especially the new ones in the Third World which have to contend with a bitter legacy left by Western colonial powers. Politics of violence arises from a bewilderingly tangled skein of divisive forces and this makes the task of enforcing liberal values of any kind extremely difficult. The noble cause of human rights is in fact inseparable from that of making democratic polity the norm the world over. But this cause is now in danger of being exploited to serve foreign-fuelled secessionism. This actually weakens the case against state terrorism which, of course, cannot be condoned.

Has Sane paused to note the irony of a group of Serbs associated with the pro-Amnesty International parallel show in Vienna—away from the conference on human rights—waving the banner, "Hands off Iraq", "Hands off Serbia"? Will he certify the Iraqi and Serbian authorities as proud fighters for the cause of human rights? It is not difficult to cite many other examples of human rights groups encouraging dubious elements, even if unwittingly. This happens because these zealots seem to imagine that they are operating in a political vacuum. It will be easier to give a boost to human rights if they honestly accept this mistake and temper their passion with a realistic understanding of the true causes of human rights violations. Likewise, the human rights movement had better stop going about as though it is a world government.

## 'Major Breakthrough' Expected in Security Talks

*BK2306033893 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Jun 93 p 6*

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi—The third round of Indo-US talks, on regional security and non-proliferation slated for June-end in Delhi, will witness for the first time the new found US defence department (Pentagon) in a role, hitherto, given exclusively to diplomacy.

This implies an active US role in military intelligence gathering on fissile material, on-site inspections, export control monitoring and special operations on proliferation, which is their major concern in relations with India and Pakistan. However, the Indian embassy is confident of a major breakthrough in talks.

The three issues expected high on the agenda, in the present context, assume a military connotation now implicit in diplomatic parleys. In line with the US belief that a phased approach be initiated for the eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) from South Asia, the US suggestions include that India unilaterally or regionally cut-off fissile material production. Besides, a regional agreement not to conduct nuclear detonations be reached and both India and Pakistan place new and existing nuclear facilities under safeguards [sentence as published].

A hint that definitive results are expected in the forthcoming bilateral talks was given by the Indian Ambassador to US, S.S.Ray, in a conversation with INDIAN EXPRESS. "While India is firmly opposed to the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] in its existing form, in accordance with certain clauses given in the Rajiv Gandhi disarmament plan, both countries are certain to reach some understanding on the proliferation issue," an effusively confident ambassador observed.

Under the Clinton Administration, the Pentagon will assist the state department non-proliferation efforts with what is being called a "counter-proliferation" role. This has been done through a newly created post of assistant secretary for nuclear security and counter proliferation. And the importance that the administration attaches to it, is evident from the fact that Ashton Carter, who heads it, is amongst the four out of 43 Pentagon political appointees cleared by the Congress

"Counter-proliferation suggest an expanding concept in post Cold War period, which entails a shift from the diplomatic to military importance to include conceivable military measures to deal with proliferation threats," observed Pentagon sources.

These will comprise of new and innovative military approaches to tackle proliferation of WMD through policy, weapons acquisitions, intelligence, analytical capabilities and export controls, according to Defence Secretary Les Aspin in a recent statement to the House Armed Services Committee.

Consequent to the July 1992 unilateral US decision not to produce fissile material for weapon purposes, the administration has repeatedly urged both India and Pakistan to consider taking similar steps on a unilateral or regional basis.

US officials maintain that the two rounds of bilateral talks with India held in June and November 1992 under the Bush administration had been useful.

## UN Envoy Views Zone of Peace in Indian Ocean

*BK2206100293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] India says no meaningful discussion on a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean can be achieved without the participation of all those who have the military and naval presence in the region. The Indian ambassador, Mr. T.P. Srinivasan, said this at the UN ad-hoc committee of the Indian Ocean in New York yesterday. He said regional disarmament and confidence-building measures are extremely important for stabilizing an atmosphere of peace in different parts of the world, but he stressed the need for a consensus on defining the region or zone to achieve the objective.

### Contractual Right To Reprocess Nuclear Fuel Noted

*BK2306051893 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "Another Indo-US Row"]

[Text] Judging by statements made to a news agency by spokesmen for the Indian Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the United States Embassy in Delhi, another row is brewing between India and the United States over the Tarapur nuclear power facility. In dispute is India's right to reprocess spent nuclear fuel from the Tarapur power plant after October 1993 when the Tarapur agreement ends. France, which became a stopgap supplier of enriched uranium to Tarapur when the US backed out of its 11 contractual obligations in 1983, has halted supplies because India refuses to sign the discriminatory nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT]. One of the AEC's options for keeping the plant working for the next decade or more is to use a mixed oxide fuel, developed in India and produced by reprocessing spent fuel from Tarapur to extract plutonium from it. This is where the trouble starts.

According to the US embassy official, his government would react "very sharply" if India reprocessed fuel of American origin without permission which cannot be given under US domestic law passed in 1978. Since India would be allowed to reprocess only if it signed the NPT, according to the official, this is as good as saying that Tarapur should be shut down, its potential thrown away and India incur the horrendous cost of decommissioning. This is clearly unacceptable and the AEC's view is sharply at odds with the American one. It believes, firstly, and correctly on the basis of more than one article in the Tarapur agreement, that India retains title to the spent fuel in the plant. It also says that it is intended to put all the plutonium recovered from reprocessing back into the power plant.

The crux of the matter is safeguards, specifically whether material supplied by America is under fullscope safeguards i.e. in perpetuity, or only during the life of the agreement which ends in 1993. India's right to reprocess spent fuel is expressly provided for in Article 2(E) of the Tarapur Cooperation Agreement "upon a joint determination of the parties that provisions of Article 6 (that material is used solely for peaceful purposes) may be effectively applied". India's peaceful intent has been made clear. Although provision was made for a review of articles of the agreement from time to time in line with changes in American domestic legislation, Article 2(E) was never changed. Therefore the Americans cannot under their contractual obligations refuse to make a joint determination that safeguards are in place when the fuel is reprocessed. At the same time, the AEC claim that safeguards end with the end of the agreement, is an unnecessarily confrontationist position to take in light of India's declared peaceful intent. The AEC's case is also likely to be contested by the IAEA [Indian Atomic Energy Authority] under the Tarapur tripartite agreement. Arbitration is the only way out if the two sides cannot sit down together, free of extraneous pressures, and arrive at a practical solution.

### Rao Holds Talks With Sri Lankan Counterpart

*BK2206135893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The prime minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today. During the meeting, the two prime ministers discussed various bilateral issues. According to a press release issued by the External Affairs Ministry, the Sri Lankan prime minister informed Mr. Rao of the recent developments in his country. The release said the Sri Lankan prime minister has undertaken this visit to establish personal contacts with the Indian prime minister and exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest. Mr. Rao assured Mr. Wickremesinghe that India fully favored the strengthening of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. The two leaders agreed that the Joint Commission should meet early to find out areas of further cooperation.

### No Joint Strategy Against LTTE

*BK2206160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The Sri Lankan prime minister has said that his country is committed to finding a political package to bring peace in the Eastern Province of the island nation. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, however, said there is no proposal to evolve a joint strategy with India to fight the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. He was addressing a press conference in New Delhi today.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said the military operation against the militant organization will continue to disarm them. He, however, admitted that his government is yet to get a breakthrough in its year-long efforts to find a political solution with the LTTE.

The visiting prime minister said that the India-Sri Lankan Joint Commission will meet in Colombo in August to find new areas of cooperation between the two countries. He said both countries are experiencing similar problems in adjusting to market-friendly economy. He hoped the cooperation among the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries will improve in the economic field despite some reservations from some member countries.

## Two Top Militants Arrested in Kashmir

*BK2206071493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the security forces have achieved major success with the arrest of two top militants in Srinagar. The DGP [director general of police], Mr. B.S. Bedi, said that the self-styled supreme commander, Mohammad Shafi Shah alias Tahir Qadri, and a self-styled district commander, Ghulam Mohammad Lone, of a militant outfit, al-Mustafa Tiger, were arrested in (Batwara) area of the city yesterday. The security forces also arrested 15 other militants during search operations at different places.

## 'Militants' Fire Rocket on Secretariat

*BK2206124893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] In Srinagar, the militants fired a rocket on the secretariat building this afternoon. The rocket hit the second floor of the bulding injuring three employees—N.A. Bhatt, Gujrar Ahmad, and Abrar. They were discharged from the hospital after first aid. Senior officers visited the secretariat soon after the incident occurred around 1400 today. This was the second rocket attack by the militants on the state secretariat building in two months.

## Further Reportage on Mehta Payoff Scandal

### Spokesman: Payoff Charge Untrue

*BK1806162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 93*

[Text] Mr. Sunil Mittal has categorically denied having received or sent any money from Harshad Mehta or on his behalf for the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. In a statement issued in New York today, Mr. Mittal also denied Harshad Mehta's claim that his father late Satpal Mittal was instrumental in the deal. It may be recalled that Harshad Mehta claimed that both Satpal Mittal and Sunil Mittal traveled along with him to the prime minister's residence on the 4 November 1991 and were present when the alleged payoff took place. Mr. Sunil Mittal also denied some reports that he left the country to avoid being contacted and said his trip abroad was planned a few weeks back.

The official spokesman today reiterated the government stand that Harshad Mehta's allegation against the prime minister is untrue. At his daily briefing in New Delhi, the spokesman pointed out that though the allegation was made in a sworn affidavit, the government has termed it as false. This, he said, the government could not have done without any basis. Asked whether Harshad Mehta had met the prime minister on 4 November 1991 as alleged, the spokesman maintained that the government does not have to explain everything. It is only after considering all things that the government had come out with its stand, he said.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said people who have no issue of their own attempt at character assassination and raise scandals as a shortcut to power. The prime minister was addressing a delegation of Congress-I workers led by Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat who called on him to express solidarity with Mr. Narasimha Rao. The prime minister said parties like the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] play with emotions and sentiments of the people. He asked the workers to rise above their personal interests and work for the fulfillment of the promises made to the people by the party.

The meeting of the presidents of the Pradesh [state] Congress Committees and leaders of the legislative parties has decided to fight the forces of destabilization, including the Bharatiya Janata Party, which are indulging in character assassination of the highest office of the prime minister. In their meeting in New Delhi today, they unanimously endorsed the resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee, reposing confidence in the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao. They said the forces of disruption began their game now when the country was coming out of the deepest economic crisis and the country was moving on the path of progress again. The meeting said that it is at this stage that the process of destabilization has been started deliberately.

Speaking at the meeting, members alleged a nexus between Harshad Mehta and the BJP. They charged the BJP of attempting to destabilize the Narasimha Rao government which has achieved several successes. They said the objective of the BJP was to force midterm elections and to scuttle the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probe. They said the affidavit of Harshad Mehta was prepared in February but released on Wednesday to synchronize with the national executive meeting of the BJP.

Twelve Congress-I MP's from Kerala have urged the government to book the prime accused in the security scam Harshad Mehta. In a letter to the prime minister, the members expressed confidence that the party will face the politically motivated design of the BJP squarely and with full vigor.

The Andaman and Nicobar Congress-I Pradesh committee has expressed its full faith and confidence in the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The Lawyers Forum for Civil Liberties has described Harshad Mehta's allegation against the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, as a concoction and fabrication. A resolution adopted at the forum's executive meeting today said his allegation is clearly designed to destabilize the country.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has demanded the resignation of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in the wake of Harshad Mehta's allegations of payoffs to him. He said in Calcutta that the prime minister and Harshad Mehta should be asked to appear before the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

### Hearing Slated for 25 Jun

*BK2206045793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scandal has summoned stockbroker Harshad Mehta on Friday to give evidence on his allegation of political payoffs. The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and the income tax officials investigating the scam are to appear on Thursday. However, a decision on summoning the prime minister has been put off for the present. The JPC chairman says the issue will be considered after the deposition of Harshad Mehta.

The JPC has also deferred its decision on the plea of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members to summon the Janata Party leader, Dr. Subrahmaniam Swamy, to substantiate his charge that Harshad Mehta paid 3 crore rupees to Mr. L.K. Advani. Briefing reporters after a five-hour-long meeting of the committee in New Delhi yesterday, Mr. R.N. Mirdha rejected the plea of the broker Harshad Mehta's lawyer, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, to appear on behalf of his client. Mr. Mirdha said the Lok Sabha speaker is being asked to consider whether the broker committed any breach of privilege by not disclosing the payoffs while giving evidence before the JPC in November last year.

On Harshad Mehta's allegations that he paid money to some MP's who are now JPC members, Mr. Mirdha said these are unfounded. The JPC members had declared at the time of the constitution of the committee and again now that they had no direct personal or pecuniary interests in the scam probe. Answering another question, Mr. Mirdha said the draft report of the committee is ready and has been circulated among members. He ruled out the need to seek any further extension of time for the JPC.

The CBI has registered two more cases involving 335 crore rupees in connection with the multi-crore security scam. The agency conducted raids at 16 places in Bombay and Bangalore yesterday on a complaint of the Syndicate Bank against three of its employees and the controversial Bangalore-based company Fairgrowth. PTI quoting CBI sources said the raids were aimed at recovering documents relating to the investments made by the Oil India Development Board under the portfolio management scheme.

### Fronts Demand Extension of JPC Term

*BK2306033493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] The National Front-Left Front coordination committee has demanded that the term of the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scam should be extended. Briefing newsmen about the outcome of its meeting in New Delhi yesterday, the CPI [Communist Party of India] national council secretary, Mr. M. Farooqi, said it is necessary to bring out the truth in the allegation of the payoffs by the stock broker Harshad Mehta to political leaders. He said the meeting was of the view that although the allegations against Mr. Narasimha Rao had been levelled by someone who allegedly defrauded the nation of about 5,000 crore rupees, it will be in the fitness of things for the prime minister to clear himself of the allegations keeping in view the dignity of this highest office. The meeting also demanded the resignation of the prime minister.

### Mehta Allegations Viewed

*BK2306051293 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "Options Before Congress"]

[Text] Harshad Mehta's allegation that he paid Rs [rupees] one crore to the Prime Minister on November 4, 1991, puts Narasimha Rao on the horns of a dilemma. He can decide to redeem his image by taking the honourable course of resigning. Or he can decide to stay on and fight as Rajiv Gandhi did. His emphatic denial suggests that he has chosen to fight it out. But he will have to consider whether he has the legal ammunition and the political strength to win and will not go down in the end. The matter is important. Even Rajiv Gandhi could not survive the stigma of the Bofors case though as yet the public has had no concrete evidence of his having received the kickbacks. Rao will have a much more difficult path to traverse than Rajiv. The latter had charisma and the Congress was united behind him. Rao does not have the same level of charisma; nor has he the Congress's united support. The stand taken by both Sharad Pawar and Arjun Singh that Harshad Mehta should be promised protection against political harassment so that he could reveal whom he paid the Rs one crore, brought this out clearly. Besides, his credibility has been severely eroded by his government's pathetic record of non- performance in many areas.

Rao's supporters can try to brazen it out by saying that no Prime Minister can be asked to go on the basis of an allegation by a prime suspect in the scam—particularly when he has adduced no clinching evidence. He is only trying to acquire a political shield for himself by resorting to blackmail and wild allegations. Rao's departure in such circumstances will set a precedent which can be invoked in the case of any future Prime Minister. But surely it is not as simple as that. Rao's own record is far from unblemished. His role in the St. Kitts forgery, his land deals which have received adverse attention, and the conduct of his sons, daughters and other relatives who have used his position to make money by bending government rules to their advantage, certainly do not give him an image of integrity which would warrant outright dismissal of Mehta's allegation.

Nor is such dismissal warranted by the specific circumstances of the present case. Though this is the first occasion when an allegation has been directly levelled against Narasimha Rao, it has been known for quite some time that Hiten Dalal, one of the principal accused in the scam, had given Rs two crore to Goldstar, a company in which his son is the larges shareholder. Is it a mere coincidence that despite Hiten Dalal's known involvement in the scam and the sentence of one year's rigorous imprisonment, passed against him by the special court dealing with scam-related cases, very little has been done to make him disgorge his ill-gotten gains?

If Mehta's aim has been to make wild allegations and buy immunity for himself, why did he not reveal the name of the recipient of the Rs one crore in question when the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) first asked him to do so in November, 1992? Also, why did the CBI not produce before the Join Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigating the scam, the letter through which Mehta's advocate conveyed in February, 1993, his willingness to divulge the name provided he was promised protection against political harassment? Why did it wait until the INDIAN EXPRESS reported the matter on June 7? And having known that he had indeed paid Rs one crore to an important leader, why did the CBI not grill him to get at the truth of the matter?

Besides, there have been from the very beginning suspicions about the Union Government's sincerity in investigating the scam. The role of two Union Ministers of State for Finance, Rameshwar Thakur and Dalbir Singh, in instructing officials of their ministry to send documents in unmarked envelopes to Congress members of the JPC, obviously to provide them with cues regarding the relevance of documents, raised eyebrows; so did the grant of an extension to the Director of the CBI, S.K. Datta, when the Government had declared its opposition to granting extensions in principle. And some officers whose culpability or indulgence made the scam possible have been rewarded with promotions and plum postings.

In the light of all this, can the Congress hope to do well in the coming elections in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh if Rao remains Prime Minister? More important, if he is perceived to be a beneficiary, can the investigations identify the real culpnts if he continues in office? If nothing else, the manner in which the probe into the scam has been handled so far suggests to the contrary. Besides, given all that has happened, what conclusions will the public draw if the investigations lead to criminal proceedings only against the known suspects and not the politicians behind the scene? Will it not further undermine the probity of the country's public life, which has already been seriously subverted by endemic and conspicuous corruption, including such celebrated cases like the Bofors deal, and a growing nexus between politicians and criminals? Will the continuance of the criminal-politician nexus not leave the country vulnerable to destabilisation at the former's will? These are some of the wider questions to be pondered in the aftermath of Mehta's chrages.

## Iran

### Further Reportage on Visit by Kyrgyz President

#### Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Cooperation

*LD2206115993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Interview with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified reporter following Kyrgyz President Akayev's visit to Iran; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, what are the results of the discussions you had with Mr. Akayev and what were the agreements reached between the two countries on political and economic issues?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It was a good trip. We discussed a number of international, regional, and bilateral issues of cooperation during the two days. There was agreement on most issues. We would not be exaggerating to say that a new chapter has opened in our relations. With regard to our discussion of regional issues, it seems that cooperation between Iran and Central Asia can be effective for regional security and for the welfare of people in the region. On this basis we signed seven agreements and determined and signed the principles of cooperation. We reached some good common ground in matters of communications, land, sea, and marine transport—as an intermediary in the last case because, of course, they do not have a shore—trade, training, cooperation in the Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as international issues including cooperation between our foreign ministers in international arenas. Of course, the recently independent, the newly independent, countries of our region are gradually taking hold of their affairs and as they do so we expand our cooperation. They know that Iran has useful resources for cooperation. They too have some good resources. You must remember they were part of a powerful superpower which has left particular resources to each.

Cooperation will also effect our life. More than anything else our nation and their nations are Muslim and wish for and love cultural, touristic, and educational works of various kinds. They love it too. Historic background, common culture, and common historic pride call us to greater cooperation.

#### Akayev Signs Accords, Departs

*LD2206101493 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—The Kyrgyz president, Askar Akayev, left Tehran for the holy city of Mashhad, in the northeastern province of Khorasan, Tuesday after signing seven important documents on various fields.

Before departure, he told reporters at the airport that he was satisfied with the outcome of his visit and that the agreements signed between the two countries aimed at promotion of air transportation, banking affairs and tourism. He said international events, expansion of bilateral ties and potentials for economic developments in the region were among issues discussed between him and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Rafsanjani who was at the airport to see off Akayev, said Iran's cooperation with the Central Asian Republics could be very effective for the stability and prosperity in the region. He added that the agreements were in the areas of communications, air, marine and land transportation, commerce, education, cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other international issues. "We have reached good joint results," he said.

### Further on Accords

*LD2206123593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev held a second round of talks at the presidential palace this morning. During this round of talks, also attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, commerce, and road and transport, Central Bank governors, and a number of officials from the two countries, a report was presented on the highly positive outcome achieved by the two countries' expert delegations in the fields of international cooperation, education, the training of diplomats, the opening of Kyrgyzstan's embassy in Tehran, the expansion of ties, tourism, the expansion of trade and economic relations, transport of goods and passengers between the two countries, the provision of customs facilities, air transportation, flights over each other's airspace, the exchange of information and experts, and training of applicants in banking.

The president of Kyrgyzstan termed the outcome of his visit to Iran as highly successful and said that the volume of agreement reached between the two countries demonstrates their common viewpoints in various cultural, political, economic, and commercial fields. He also noted: We are truly grateful to the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] for their sincere cooperation with the Kyrgyzstan delegation.

While expressing gratitude for the warm hospitality of the IRI, Askar Akayev invited our country's president to visit Kyrgyzstan at the appropriate opportunity.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, after thanking President Akayev for his remarks, expressed satisfaction with the agreements reached during the Kyrgyzstan delegation's visit to Iran and noted that the IRI has possibilities and very extensive experience in the field of oil exploration, extraction, and refining and can help Kyrgyzstan in this field as well.

In concluding his remarks President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the agreements reached between the two countries will be implemented in practice.

It is worth mentioning that at the end of this round of talks documents on cooperation between the two countries were signed by the presidents of Iran and Kyrgyzstan. Ministers of foreign affairs, commerce, and road and transport and governors of the two Central Banks also signed the relevant documents.

### Defense Minister, Lebanese Counterpart Meet

*LD1906104193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Text] The first round of talks between Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, who is accompanied by a high-ranking military delegation, and Akbar Torkan, minister of defense and armed forces logistics, took place in Tehran today.

In this round of talks the Lebanese defense minister referred to the 17-year civil war in that country, saying that it had been prolonged because of Lebanon's partition into paramilitary zones and foreign assistance to the warring factions. He also referred to the present situation in the Lebanese Army, saying: At present, the Lebanese Army enjoys the strong support of the people, and the number of personnel at its service is on the increase. He added: We are proud that the activities of our army are directed toward confrontation against the Zionist regime, with the aim of forcing that regime out of Lebanon.

The meeting continued with our country's defense minister expressing his pleasure over the Lebanese defense minister's visit. He also emphasized the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Lebanon.

### Nateq-Nuri: No Interference in Others' Affairs

*LD2306082093 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Bandar-e Kyashahar, Gilan Prov, June 23, (IRNA)—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri has dismissed the allegations of the enemies on Iran's interference in other countries' internal affairs. "Those who claim so have never produced any documents in this regard," he said.

Nateq-Nuri, who was speaking to the people of the quake-stricken town of Astane-e 'Ashrafieh in this province Tuesday, attributed the cause of world arrogance's enmity towards the Islamic Republic to the people's committment to the Islamic principles and values.

"The least retreat from our principles and values before the enemies would only further encourage them in their grudge against Iran."

He noted that their fear of the spread of the Islamic revolution worldwide had caused an all-out cold war against the Islamic system in Iran.

He concluded by quoting the leader of the revolution as saying that the message of the revolution had spread in the world and "whether we want it or not it has left its positive impacts on Islamic states."

The town of Astane-e 'Ashrafieh was damaged when a devastating quake shook the province in June 1990.

## Report on Closure of Nakhichevan Border Refuted

*LD2206173893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] An informed source in our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denied a BBC report on the closure of the Iranian border with Nakhichevan.

Quoting Turkish Government officials, the BBC this morning claimed that since Abulfaz Elchibey fled to Nakhichevan, Iran has closed its border with Nakhichevan.

The said official of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that traffic between the border peoples of west Azerbaijan and the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan continues as before on the basis of existing protocols.

## Peaceful Solution to Azerbaijani Crisis Needed

*NC2006064593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group; from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] Reports from the Republic of Azerbaijan speak of continuing tension and political instability in that country. Apparently, forces under Suret Guseynov's command do not intend to return to Gyandzha, and some reports indicate that they are moving toward Baku. Meanwhile, veteran Azerbaijani politician Geydar Aliyev, who was selected chairman of parliament and assigned the duties of the president after Abulfaz Aliyev [Elchibey] fled to Nakhichevan, has not yet been able to solve the political crisis in the Republic.

During the past few days, he has resorted to two methods to solve the crisis. The first was his efforts to form a coalition government comprising major parties such as the National Independence Party and the New Azerbaijan Party that belongs to Geydar Aliyev. The second was his efforts to convince Colonel Guseynov to halt his attacks and to stop his advancement toward Baku.

But apparently Geydar Aliyev has not been able to score much success in his initial efforts. The formation of a coalition government is facing difficulties, since the existing parties are not ready to participate in the coalition when it is not clear who will occupy Baku in the next few days. Meanwhile, Colonel Guseynov has apparently advanced to within 90 km of Baku and does not intend to withdraw. Also, the talks that Aliyev's representatives have held with him have not yielded any specific results.

At any rate, reports speak of the reestablishment of contacts between Geydar Aliyev and Abulfaz Aliyev, who has fled to Nakhichevan. This shows that the new chairman of the Azerbaijani parliament is thinking of the possibility of Abulfaz Aliyev's return to power, especially when the United States, Turkey, and the European Community have expressed their support for Abulfaz Aliyev in various ways and have called for his return to power as the legal and chosen president.

However, since Abulfaz Aliyev's flight from Baku and the absence of resistance to Col. Guseynov's forces show a lack of strong popular backing and a sharp drop in his popularity and in the legitimacy of the rule by the People's Front, his return to power dictates a kind of broad compromise among the existing political forces in Azerbaijan. Actually, the root of these developments can be found in the government's recent defeats in the war with the Armenians and in the loss of political and territorial concessions in the Karabakh conflict. These are also among the major reasons why the Azerbaijani people have turned their backs on the government of Abulfaz Aliyev and the People's Front.

At any rate, it seems that the further exacerbation of the crisis in the Republic of Azerbaijan is not to the benefit of any of the political forces and people of Azerbaijan, because things may lead to a civil war. And in order to prevent such incidents, the leaders of the country should strive for a peaceful solution to the crisis through talks.

## Azerbaijan Crisis, Possible Compromise Viewed

*LD2206121893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1008 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] At a time when power has been divided between various centers in the Republic of Azerbaijan and it is not clear who is in control of that country, the Azerbaijan National Assembly called, in its session on 21 June, on Abulfaz Elchibey, the president who fled, to return to Baku. In the meantime, Colonel Surat Guseynov, commander of the rebel troops whose forces are still in the vicinity of Baku, announced that real power in the country is in his hands.

The reality is that the Republic of Azerbaijan is going through a dangerous political and military crisis. Warnings can now be heard of an imminent attack by Armenian forces against Azerbaijan territory and, at the same time, there is increasing anxiety about the possibility of internal conflict betwen the rebel forces, the supporters of the Popular Front, and the Azerbaijan Army. [passage omitted]

At any rate, political observers are of the opinion that a kind of political compromise will take place between the conflicting political forces in Azerbaijan, because the return of Abulfaz Elchibey and the return to power of the Popular Front seems unlikely in view of that faction's weakness and incapacity and the doubts cast on its legitimacy.

The Popular Front, which came to power under the leadership of Abulfaz Elchibey, described its goal as the liberation of Karabakh within three months and the solving of that republic's economic problems. However, not only have these aims not been realized during the past year, but the situation has continued to deteriorate. Armenian attacks against Azerbaijan territory have taken parts of the republic, in addition to Karabakh, out of government control, and, at the same time, the economic situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the people's lives have become intolerable. This situation developed alongside the Popular Front's unrealistic foreign policy, which, by adopting excessive closeness with the West and Turkey and ignoring the spiritual and historical links between the people of Iran and Azerbaijan, severely reduced the Popular Front's and Elchibey's popularity and destroyed the country's unity.

One can, therefore, see the recent developments in the Republic of Azerbaijan as the outcome of the incorrect and misjudged policies of the Popular Front and Abulfaz Elchibey, its leader. At any rate, it now seems that establishing a comprehensive political compromise between Azerbaijan's political forces is a requirement which cannot be overlooked. The government which comes to power in the Republic of Azerbaijan will have grave responsibilities; responsibilities, which will include the resolution of economic problems and the Karabakh crisis, on a domestic level, and the consolidation and expansion of balanced and reasonable relations with that republic's neighbours, without the granting of unreasonable concessions to foreigners outside the region. The people of the Republic of Azerbaijan will undoubtedly support such a government, which would be the only possible legitimate government for them.

## Intelligence Agencies Using Merchants, Workers

*LD2306104093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Excerpts] On the second day of the gathering of judicial officials, the necessity was stressed for observing discipline, accuracy, speed, and consideration in judicial cases concerning the oppressed.

At the gathering, which was attended by the presidents of the Supreme Court and Administrative Justice Tribunal, the justice minister, directors general of justice departments, and prosecutors, Intelligence Minister Fallahiyan-Khuzestani referred to the activities of anti-Iranian elements on the international and domestic scenes. He said: The enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have now resorted to cultural and propaganda activities. By infiltrating the pillars of the Islamic Republic of Iran, spreading rumors and sowing despondency in the hearts of the people, they are trying to accomplish their accursed tasks.

Describing the country's political-cultural situation, he added: Basically, the world's intelligence services have changed their methods of gathering data and intelligence, and are using merchants and workers in the industrial and commercial sectors as their agents. In many cases what is passed on is exchanged without espionage being mentioned between the parties. They are debriefed without their knowledge. Within the scope of our responsibilities, we will combat this phenomenon seriously.

Recounting the aspects of the psychological warfare waged by world arrogance against Iran, Fallahiyan-Khuzestani said: The enemy uses every small weapon to reach his evil goals. With the necessary planning, coordination, sensitivity, and attention, we must combat those ploys. [passage omitted]

Later in this morning's session, Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati described the characteristics of the foreign policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of human rights. He described as empty the claims to the contrary by international forums. He added: If realistic and unbiased representatives come to our country, they would definitely place Iran at the top of the list of countries that support human rights.

## GCC, Syria Reject Egyptian Call To Condemn Iran

*LD1906105293 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—The six-member (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) and Syria rejected an Egyptian paper calling for the condemnation of Iran during last week's meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries.

Egyptian Islamic newspaper AL-SHA'B Friday quoted diplomatic sources in Cairo saying that Egypt presented a paper on Iran's alleged support of "terrorism" in Arab countries and on Iran's arms buildup and called for condemnation of Tehran's policies. Syria rejected the Egyptian demand on grounds that Iran is a neighbouring state and that such sort of condemnation could lead to a real threat to the security of the PGCC states.

The Persian Gulf Arab states also rejected the Egyptian demand stressing that differences with Iran should be sorted out through political dialogue and direct contacts.

Syria proposed new initiatives to resolve Egyptian-Iranian differences. The PGCC states indirectly expressed their desire that Cairo should resolve its differences with Tehran without involving them.

In their meeting in Abu Dhabi last weekend the Damascus Declaration countries agreed on political cooperation but differences on security arrangements continued. The eight Arab states signed the Declaration just after the end of the Iraqi- Kuwaiti war in 1991 to create an Arab defence force for the Persian Gulf. But differences on security arrangements have hindered the implementation of the Damascus Declaration.

## Mashhad Views Formation of New Afghan Cabinet

*NC1906131893 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dari 1430 GMT 18 Jun 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Greetings to you, dear listeners. Yesterday, that is on Thursday, a month after the Jalalabad session, Golboddin Hekmatyar finally took the oath of office as the prime minister of Afghanistan. The swearing-in ceremony in the city of Paghman, 30 kms west of Kabul, took place in the presence of the country's President Borhanoddin Rabbani. Thus, Hekmatyar and his coalition cabinet have taken over the reins of the administration in Afghanistan from the previous government and it has been decided that tomorrow, Saturday, the Afghanistan cabinet will convene its inaugural session.

This is while it is not yet very clear whether the obstacles to Hekmatyar's presence in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, have been removed or not. Last week, Golboddin Hekmatyar had entered Kabul for a short while in order to assess the situation in the city and view the possibility of setting up his cabinet in the Afghan capital. During this period, he met and held talks with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, the leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and his forces who are locked in conflict with the forces of the former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

He also met with the leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] 'Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf, who is the main adversary of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami in Kabul.

It is worth mentioning that last Saturday, President Borhanoddin Rabbani, who was on his way to the residence of Golboddin Hekmatyar in Paghman, had not been able to meet the prime minister because of a clash in progress in this area. A spokesman for Borhanoddin Rabbani commented: The objective of the meeting between Rabbani and Hekmatyar was to eliminate any misunderstandings, to discuss the modalities of Hekmatyar's return to Kabul, and to pave the way for him to begin work.

In any case, by taking the oath of office as the new prime minister of Afghanistan, it appears that Hekmatyar has taken another step in the path of bestowing a mandate on the new Afghanistan Government, in creating a more conducive atmosphere for the new cabinet to begin work, and in fact, marking the end of the work of the previous government and its problems.

It appears that Hekmatyar's current efforts to establish peace and a legal government in Kabul are a political attempt to eliminate all obstacles in this path. In the course of the past month, when the security situation in Kabul was not good enough for the government to begin work, and for the new prime minister to take the helm, Hekmatyar had forged ahead step by step to set up the government under his control in Kabul and to establish a unified political leadership in the capital of Afghanistan. Thus, he gradually made some headway in creating the necessary conditions for this purpose.

Thus, it appears that the solution to the various complexities and the plethora of difficulties require political acumen for a unified political leadership in Kabul. The experience of over a year of the mojahedin government in Afghanistan has proved that armed combat and military means yield nothing but the proliferation of war and disarray.

At present, in view of the fact that there has been great progress in setting up a government acceptable to all the mojahedin factions, a government that is about to begin its operations, it is still not known what the attitude of the forces on the side of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud will be what his own attitude will be toward the new political situation.

Also, the issue of the National Islamic Movement of the North under the leadership of General Dostam—which is said to control over 15 northern provinces of this country—is in itself a thorny subject that will undoubtedly pose a problem for Kabul in the future. Given this, one cannot ignore the local power struggles that have evolved in the various parts of Afghanistan; the nationalistic and (?ethnic) struggles and the dispute regarding division of power, which are the main bones of contention.

Whatever has contributed successfully to the restoration of calm, the elimination of the chaos, and the establishment of a unified political power in Kabul so far, indicates that negotiations and compromise have proved effective in this path, which, if continued without resorting to military conflict, will ease the attainment of peace and national unity for Afghanistan.

## New Shipping Line Links Iran With Dagestan

*LD2006134493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran today opened a shipping line linking Bandar-e Anzali with the port of Makhachkala in Russia. Our correspondent has a report about this.

[Correspondent] The managing director of the Caspian Sea shipping company, which is affiliated to the Islamic Republic of Iran's shipping organization, told us in Bandar-e Anzali: [Announcer read] After loading in Russia's port of Makhachkala, the Iranian ship Ghadir entered the port of Bandar-e Anzali this morning, and unloaded 3,100 tonnes of imported goods including glass, sheet steel, china clay, and wood. With the opening of this line to Makhachkala in the Russian republic of Dagestan, there are now four shipping lines connecting the ports of Bandar-e Anzali and Nowshahr [in Iran] to ports in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan in central Asia.

Furthermore the managing director of the Caspian Sea shipping company announced that during the first quarter of this year [21 March to 21 June 1993] this company's ships made 21 journeys to move 61,000 tonnes of cargo between Iran's northern ports and ports in the newly independent republics. He added that shipping activities in the Caspian Sea have doubled since 1371 [21 March 1992 to 21 March 1993]. Iran's first direct shipping line to the port of Astrakhan in the Russian Federation will be inaugurated in the near future.

This was [correspondent] Rasht of the Central News Unit.

## Opposition Leader on Regime's 'Terrorist' Plans

*NC2006070893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Text] Mohammad Seyyed Moqaddasi, head of the foreign relations of the Iranian opposition's national council, has said that the only way to save the Iranian people and prevent the Tehran regime from exporting terrorism to Arab and Islamic countries is by bringing down the terrorist mullahs' regime.

In statements to our radio, he said the Iranian opposition national council has documents and maps that confirm the existence of nine terrorist training centers on the outskirts of Tehran, Khartoum, and Port Sudan, and that members of the Iranian Pasdaran [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps], who are supervised by the Iranian intelligence agencies, train extremists from some Arab and Islamic countries, such as Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon in return for wages paid by the mullahs' government in Tehran.

He said the terrorist government in Iran has executed approximately 100,000 Iranian people and that 150,000 Iranians who expressed opposition to this regime are being tortured in Iranian prisons in the capital and various Iranian cities.

He affirmed that the Sudanese regime is the only regime coordinating with the Tehran authorities to train terrorists and send them to carry out sabotage operations in Arab capitals and cities and that the Khartoum rulers receive in return oil shipments and millions of dollars.

He added that the Iranian regime opposes the international Declaration of Human Rights because it disturbs Iranian terrorist thought. Delegations taking part in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna have severely criticized the Iranian regime which violates all human rights inside and outside Iran.

## President Attends Congress of Cultural Jihad

*LD2106121693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] In the second big congress of cultural jihad, which was held in Tehran's Mahdiyeh hall in the presence of Friday imams, preachers, and eulogizers from Tehran; and Islamic associations from offices, factories, and basij groups, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a speech. He praised efforts toward organizing matters relating to the two divine duties by officials of the Headquarters for the Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice, and described them as essential and very important responsibilities. In terms of their importance, he placed the duties of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice on a par with prayer and fasting. He added: The commands pertaining to the propagation of virtue and prohibiting vice are more complicated than the commands pertaining to prayer and Hajj rituals. In view of the fact that they may arise on any day and at any time in various forms, people must act with full knowledge of the relevant commands and in a way that will not yield results opposite from the desired ones, he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the responsibility of clergy in explaining the commands relating to the two duties, and the role of the machinery of mass communication in disseminating the culture of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice. He said: The propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice are not just governmental or clerical duties; every member of society must carry them out, when they reach the age of maturity, in exactly the same way as prayers and fasting.

The president then referred to the former regime's intention to remove these two duties from the religious responsibilities of individuals. He praised his eminence the imam's [Khomeyni's] actions in reviving them. He went on to describe the domain of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice as being every mature individual, in terms of persons, and every issue, in terms of subject matter. He said: In relation to the prohibition of vice, the spirit of Islam can be seen as that of a psychiatric doctor; its attitude towards an offender that of a doctor towards a patient; and its approach that of treatment and guidance of offenders. He explained: Each issue must be given its own appropriate weight, and offenders must be treated in proportion to the offense.

The president stressed the importance of general education. Describing the extent of each person's responsibility, he added: Some actions must be undertaken by the people and some by the government. Individuals must, therefore, be careful not to infringe on the rights and responsibilities of the relevant authorities and the judiciary, because performing the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice badly is itself a sin and must be seen as a vice.

### Ayatollah Khamene'i Comments on Virtue, Vice

*LD2106123593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, met members of the Headquarters for Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice this morning.

Giving guidance, he emphasized the importance, subtlety, and sensitivity of the headquarters in reviving the spirit of propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice and said religious awareness and political vision in determining the applicability of this divine duty was of significance.

In reference to credible Islamic documents, the esteemed leader of the revolution described opposition to the rule of the unpious and mischievous as the measure of propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice.

He said all efforts should be directed towards explaining this meaning that the aim of propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice is opposition to the rule of the unpious and the mischievous and that the propagation of this divine duty would prevent their rule. It is therefore necessary, through deep religious and political vision and understanding, to identify and publicly report the most dangerous vices.

Ayatollah Khamene'i called on the members of the headquarters to pay attention to the importance and sensitivities of the duties of the headquarters and told them: You have an important responsibility, which you must carry out intelligently and in the best possible manner. Experience, expedience, and intelligence must be used for the work.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said spiritual propagation and prohibition was the first real and true stage in implementing the propagation of virtues and prohibition of vice.

Emphasizing the use of discourse and language in this regard he said propagation and prohibition through discourse and language must become a reality among the people. This is an important stage in the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice in Islamic society and its effect furthers that of holy war. The use of language and its repetition, without engaging the offender, will be an important act in cleaning vices and propagating virtues in society. The deep effects of propagating and prohibition through language must be taken into account. This important fact must be explained to the people.

Finally emphasizing the importance of the basij in supporting the propagators of virtues and prohibitors of vices, according to the envisioned regulations, the esteemed leader of the revolution said the effort toward the revival of the propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice among the people is an important Islamic duty.

According to this report, prior to the speech by the leader of the Islamic revolution, the head of the Headquarters for the Propagation of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice, Ayatollah Jannati, reported on the activities of the headquarters and explained the aims and plans of this headquarters.

### Khamene'i Says 'Quick' Court Judgments Needed

*LD2206104693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] In a meeting yesterday with senior officials of the judiciary, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, stressed the need for the judicial establishment to help the weak attain their legal and legitimate rights. He said it is necessary for the judiciary to be realistic and quick in establishing the rights of the people.

The esteemed leader said the presence of experienced 'ulema who are familiar with Islamic laws and legal regulations and the quality of implementing Islamic justice are among the great achievements and characteristics of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: The presence of noble personalities at the head of the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran raises the hope that justice will be administered for all individuals, particularly for the weaker social strata. And it is on the basis of this hope that the judiciary should work realistically and quickly to administer justice.

Addressing the judges, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed out that it is necessary for the weak to understand the law. He said: The weak must be helped to gain access to judgement, achieve their rights through an understanding of law, and enjoy Islamic justice in all judicial establishment.

The leader of the Islamic revolution concluded by emphasizing the need to confront offenders at all levels and posts and said: The judiciary must confront offenders without consideration for their posts, and confrontation with offenders in the judiciary is of greater importance.

Prior to the guidance of the esteemed leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary, reported on the issues of the judiciary. He pointed to the start of Judiciary Week and recalled the memory of the martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and his comrades in the judiciary.

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 'Judicial Issue'

*LD2206105793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Simultaneous with the Judicial Branch Week, the fourth countrywide seminar of the state judicial authorities began in Tehran this morning with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At the opening ceremony of the seminar, attended by Ayatollahs Meshkini, the head of the Experts Assembly for Leadership Affairs; Yazdi, the head of the Judicial Branch; Moqtada'i, the president of the State Supreme Court; various state and military officials and a number of ambassadors from Islamic countries, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: A society without sound a judicial system and without Islamic justice, is an unbalanced society.

Expressing opposition to those westernized individuals who do not believe that the existing climate is suitable and efficient for implementation of the Islamic laws, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: In accordance with our belief, we consider Islam as the richest source for judgement. We think no other society has such a rich source at its disposal. Referring to the point that some judicial laws have been compiled in circumstances that differ from present circumstances, the president stressed: In view of the rich Islamic resources, the judicial issue must be critically reviewed [naqd shavad].

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on: Without a proper judicial branch and qualified judges, we would face difficulties in implementation of the law; and our judges must, therefore, be highly qualified in religious matters. On the factors that might divert a judge from the path of justice, he said: A judge must be independent to practice, and this independence is realized when a judge enjoys the political support of the regime. We must, therefore, provide a judge with political, legal, and financial support so as to strengthen the judgement front of Islamic rule.

In conclusion, the president paid tribute to the dedicated officials of the state judicial branch and expressed the hope that the branch will implement justice in society with its existing structure.

## Majles Passes Free-Trade Bill 21 Jun

*LD2206104593 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—The Majles on Monday passed the remaining 13 articles of the 29-article bill on running the country's free trade zones.

The bill enlists the officials who cannot have shares in the companies established by the organizations of free trade zones. Among them are members of the high council of the free trade zones, Majles deputies, ministers, heads of state organizations, directors general, governors general and private companies.

So far, Kish and Qeshm Islands as well as Chahbahar port city, in southern Iran, have been declared free trade zones. The establishment of new zones would depend on the Majles ratification.

The organization of every free zone is authorized to secure and guarantee the required credits from both domestic and foreign sources after receiving approval from the organization's high council.

Repayment of the credits must be financed only from the income sources of the organizations.

Also, investments and withdrawals of capital and interests gained from economic activities in all the three zones are fully authorized.

After being approved by its high council, the organization of every zone can guarantee repayment of foreign investments in case of losses incurred in conditions that ownership is negated or due to nationalization.

Registration of companies, ships and aircraft in every free zone by the organization of that zone must be carried out according to the regulations approved by the high council while Article 81 of the Constitution must be fully observed. The article stipulates that "the granting of concessions to foreigners for the formation of companies or institutions dealing with commerce, industry, agriculture, services or mineral extraction, is absolutely forbidden."

Investments made in the free zones will be exempted from income tax for 15 years while employment, insurance, social security and visa issuance in these zones will have specific rules that will be approved by the cabinet after confirmation by the high council.

Goods whose raw and basic materials are fully or in part provided at home and which are produced in the free trade zones will be exempted from all or part of the customs duties and commercial interests related to domestic basic material.

After customs registration, the commercial exchanges of the free zones with other countries will not follow the rules pertaining to imports and exports. The import-export formalities in each zone will be provided by the high council and ratified by the cabinet.

Meanwhile, the leasing of lands in the free zones to foreign nationals is permitted but their sale is absolutely forbidden.

## Iraqi Military Refugees Repatriated

*LD2206103693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] A group of 450 Iraqi military personnel who sought refuge with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the course of the Persian Gulf war, returned to their country today.

According to our correspondent, during the Gulf war two years ago, this group of Iraqi military personnel willingly crossed the border to our country under emergency conditions.

Before the group of Iraqi military personnel departed today, Mr. Aqamiri, the official in charge of the Iranian [as heard] prisoners announced: So far, the ground has been prepared for the return of 3,655 Iraqi military personnel who sought refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran by crossing the border during the Persian Gulf war. This group of 450 personnel is being repatriated in accordance with their own wishes. He added: During their stay, these individuals were kept in the camps and were treated as guests in accordance with Islamic and humanitarian principles. He added: Right now, the issue of the Iranian prisoners of war is pursued by the Islamic Republic of Iran with the cooperation of the International Red Cross.

### Dastmalchian Appointed Ambassador to Jordan

*LD2106083193 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—At the proposal of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and approval of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ahmad Dastmalchian was appointed Iran's ambassador and plenipotentiary to Jordan. Dastmalchian previously served as the foreign minister's advisor for Arab Middle East and North African affairs.

### Central Bank Announces Lower Exchange Rates

*LD1906120893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Excerpt] The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran today announced lower rates of exchange for the U.S. dollar and other major currencies. As compared with the rates announced by the Central Bank on 17 June, today's rates were lower by 5 rials per U.S. dollar, 18 rials per German mark, 43 rials per 100 Japanese yen, 21 rials per pound sterling, and 17 rials per French franc.

This morning the Central Bank also announced selling rates for foreign currencies as follows: 1,620 rials per U.S. dollar, 965 rials per German mark, 1,479 rials per 100 Japanese yen, 2,427 rials per pound sterling, 1080 rials per Swiss franc, and 440 rials per Unites Arab Emirates dirham. [passage omitted]

## Pakistan

### Nawaz Sharif Interviewed on Current Issues

*BK2306030093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Jun 93 p 7*

["Excerpts" of an "exclusive" interview with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by Prema Vishwanathan of the INDIAN EXPRESS; place and date not given]

[Text] Q. The process of reconciliation that you have initiated between the Government and the Opposition has set a new precedent in Pakistan. Will this be merely a temporary alliance motivated by political compulsions or a permanent understanding?

A. It will be a very good thing if it becomes permanent. I think politicians now realise that if they want to serve the cause of democracy, they will have to cooperate with each other and cannot allow themselves to be used by any individual or by undemocratic forces, and fight against each other. Therefore, the need for reconciliation and cooperation is much greater now than in the past.

Q. Would any understanding with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) be based on a repeal of the Eighth Amendment?

A. Immediately after the restoration of the National Assembly and my Government, I took the initiative of seeking the cooperation of the Opposition, particularly the PPP, in resolving complex national issues. I am pleased that Benazir Bhutto responded positively to our initiative for talks between the two sides which are already under way. We have no doubt that the repeal of the Eighth Amendment tops our agenda for talks with the Opposition.

Q. Do you envisage a reconciliation even with the President?

A. A reconciliation means that the President should remain within the framework of the Constitution of Pakistan. Just as the Government and the Prime Minister should.

Q. So you mean if there is consensus on constitutional amendments, the President and Prime Minister could come together?

A. If there is a consensus between the Government and the Opposition, it is not difficult.

Q. Your recent statement would seem to indicate the possibility of improvement in Indo-Pakistani relations. What are the major bottlenecks?

A. The Kashmir question is the principal stumbling block in our bilateral relations. This issue has been on our bilateral agenda ever since Partition. Its peaceful resolution has acquired greater urgency given the fact that Kashmiris have risen in what is a massive spontaneous and indigenous uprising. It is the Kasmiris themselves who have risen against the Indian occupation and we feel that unless India is willing to accept the fundamental reality that Indian military occupation has been rejected by the Kashmiris, Kashmir will remain the biggest point of contention between Pakistan and India.

The only way out, in our view, is for India to accept this reality and agree to a plebiscite under UN auspices, which is what the UN resolutions have been demanding for well over four decades. For our part, we have even been expressing our willingness to talk to India within the framework of the Simla Agreement but again, it is the obduracy of India that is the roadblock to resolving the Kashmir question.

Q. Would it not be possible for some kind of an autonomous council to be set up to ensure that both countries relinquish their territorial rights over Kashmir?

A. First, we should start talking, then we can go into the specifics. Talking in the real sense and seriously. If one party is serious and the other isn't serious, then nothing proceeds.

Q. Are there apprehensions that the Indian Government is not serious?

A. I wouldn't like to use this word for India, but I think there is need for a serious discussion on the subject.

Q. There is a perception among Indian officials that Pakistan is abetting terrorism within India. What is your response to this charge?

A. None of these allegations, which have often been mentioned by Indian officials, are based on facts. No instance nor any evidence has been provided to substantiate these allegations.

The Indian Government itself backtracked on allegations that wrongly sought to link Pakistan with the Bombay blasts. Even the US Government has declared that there was no evidence of Pakistani involvement in the Bombay blasts.

Q. There is a perception in India that the Pakistan Government has not been forthcoming enough in taking positive action in terms of either detaining or providing information about the key suspects in the Bombay blasts case. The Memon brothers are said to have left Dubayy for Karachi after which their whereabouts are not known.

A. I had a discussion with the Indian Prime Minister at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting in Dhaka where I said to him, "Whatever information you require, we are willing to provide. And for this purpose I would like to send my minister and secretary for the interior to India and also invite your people to Pakistan so that they can exchange information and discuss the problem."

I think a few days after I said this, the Assembly was dissolved and I couldn't remain in touch with my Indian counterpart.

Q. Was the Indian Prime Minister's response positive?

A. Yes. He said he would let me know. But I haven't heard from him after that.

Q. On the Kashmir front, what is the positive initiative from your end?

A. I have been discussing the matter with Mr. Narasimha Rao and stressing the need for resolving the problem. Just giving statements to the press doesn't help. It has to be a serious dialogue between the two countries.

We don't want the tension to escalate because this is not in the interests of either country. Our economy is suffering, investments have been affected, and our defence expenditure is going up.

Q. Sure. You are a businessman in politics—a rather unusual phenomenon in Pakistan, where the landed gentry has traditionally held the reins of power. How did you assume this role?

A. Yes, it's the first time in the history of Pakistan that a businessman has become Prime Minister. Of course, I am no longer a businessman, having been "out of business" for the last 15 years.

Politics has been my passion from my student days Even while I was in Law College, I was intereted in it. Of course, I have been a Muslim Leaguer right from birth. In fact, I can't say I was a keen businessman, although we were among the largest steel manufacturers—my father set up his steel and textile units way back.

Q. Talking of the days following the dissolution of your Government, did you ever feel disheartened or like opting out of politics?

A. Not at all. You should have seen my reaction the day the Assembly was dissolved. I told my partymen on April 18: "Tomorrow we'll be out on the streets." And that is what happened. In Rawalpindi, talking to the people, turning into a moving force. We literally played off the front foot!

Q. Your family life must have undergone considerable stress after your moving to Islamabad as Prime Minister, leaving your wife and children behind in Lahore.

A. Actually, even when I was Chief Minister of Punjab, they saw very little of me. And when I moved to Islamabad, my parents (ours is a joint family) felt it was better for my children to study in Lahore. So my wife and children come here and I visit them once or twice a week. In any case, politics keeps you so busy that you have to sacrifice time with your family. It's all part of the game.

### Sharif Comments on Dialogue Offer to Bhutto

*BK2206062593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Jun 93 pp 1, 10*

[By Tariq Butt]

[Text] Islamabad—In a significant move, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif declared Sunday that he would have consultations with his party whether or not he should meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for maintaining good working relationship with him.

His remark indicates that he does not seem in a hurry to meet the President. But, some informed circles believe in view of ongoing efforts at different levels that a meeting may be held some time this week.

Overwhelmed by the passage of a resolution in the National Assembly, empowering the Speaker to form a House committee to examine amendments in the Constitution, he said the development reflected aspirations of the 120 million people. However, the move may not be well received at the Presidency.

The Prime Minister stated this during two informal press talks in the Parliament building. He faced newsmen after he presided over a pre-session breakfast-meeting of the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] parliamentary party. Again he had an encounter with them after the Assembly carried the important resolution after a lengthy engaging debate.

To a question, the Prime Minister said he had made an offer for dialogue to Ms Benazir Bhutto with open heart and would welcome her when she felt that they should meet.

Asked when a meeting between Ms Bhutto and his brother, MNA [member of National Assembly] Mian Shahbaz Sharif would be held he said it could take place any time and "I have no objection to it".

Answering another question, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif termed the House's decision to form a committee for examining constitutional amendments as positive and good step forward in the right direction. He congratulated PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance] Syed Iftikhar Gilani on sponsoring this resolution.

"The sentiments which the people expressed after the dissolution of the National Assembly have been tremendously reflected in the move, whose results will match their aspirations. The Assembly has taken a decision which the people wanted," the Prime Minister said.

To another question, he said the House body would reinforce efforts being made by several committees formed by the government and the opposition which were engaged in discussions to end the political crisis. "Both have the same objective to achieve."

Responding to a question, he said that the support extended to the resolution by Pakistan People's Party MNAs was a welcome development, which contains a grimpse of desires of their party. "Leaders have to respect the opinion of their supporters and have to take decisions in accordance with it".

"Such questions should not be put to me," he told a correspondent who said that cracks appeared in the PPP during the debate on the resolution in the Assembly.

He said that Air Marshal (Retd.) Asghar Khan and Maulana Fazlur Rehman who recently met him had opposed the Eighth Amendment in their press statements.

To yet another question, he said he had developed personal relations with British Prime Minister John Major who expressed good wishes on the restoration of the Assembly. "I try to use my personal rapport for the betterment of the country. I and the British Prime Minister think alike," he said.

"There is a hope for improvement of Pakistan's relations with the United States," he told a correspondent who asked whether he would use his personal relations with the British Premier to improve ties with America.

Responding to a question, he said solution of the Kashmir problem was extremely important for normalising Indo-Pak relations. "We can come out of the quagmire if this matter is resolved."

### Committee To Consider Constitutional Amendments

*BK2006114093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] The National Assembly today adopted a resolution for setting up a House committee to examine amendments which need to be brought about in the Constitution. It will later submit its report to the House. The resolution was moved by Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] requesting the speaker to constitute the committee at the earliest. The speaker, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, after adoption of the resolution said the committee will be constituted in consultation with the leader of the House, leader of the Opposition and all the group leaders in the assembly.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has described the resolution a praiseworthy step in the right direction in accordance with the aspirations of the people. Talking to newsmen at the Parliament House in Islamabad today, he congratulated the PDA member, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, for moving the resolution and described it a good beginning. He was sure that the recommendations of the committee for amendments in the Constitution will be in line with the aspirations of the people. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said this support of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] members to the resolution reflects the views of the party and he was sure that the party leadership will respect the sentiments of its members. The prime minister said the Government and the Opposition have the same objective and the House committee will play an effective role in this regard.

### Committee Members Named

*BK2206114893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The speaker of the National Assembly has constituted a 16-member special committee to examine the amendments which need to be brought about in the Constitution. Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor will be its chairman, while Chaudhary Amir Hussain, Syed Fakhr Imam, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Mian Mohammad Yasin

Khan Wattoo, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, Mr. Liaqat Baloch, Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha, Mr. Mohammad Ajmal Khan Khattak, Mr. Alamzeb Khan, Mr. Mahmud Khan Achakzai, Mir Bizen Bizenjo, Mr. Peter John Sahotra, and Malik (Spingold) will be its members. The committee will submit its report within 14 days.

## Army's Anti-Crime Operation in Sindh Evaluated

*BK2106044593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0111 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[By Shamimur Rehman]

[Text] Karachi, June 21 (AFP)—The Pakistani Army has completed one year of a controversial operation against terrorists, bandits and anti-social elements in Sindh, claiming a sharp drop in the crime rate.

But major ethnic groups in the southern province are aggrieved by the political fallout of the operation, which involves thousands of troops, paramilitary rangers, and police.

Since May 23 last year when the cleanup operation began, 800 bandits have been killed, 150 gangs, 70 percent of them bandits, rounded up, and huge quantity of weapons seized, a senior military officer said.

Some 5,600 people were arrested and 11,000 illegal arms seized during the period, he said.

The officer also said car thefts had dropped by 80 percent in urban centres of the province.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah has said the army had brought down the crime rate to an extent that people are able to travel between different cities without "any fear."

He also recommended that the army, which has said its job is complete but has yet to withdraw, should continue to handle the law and order job assigned to it by the federal government.

But Altaf Hussain, founding father of ethnic-based Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which lost its power in the urban centres as a result of the operation, is bitter about the deployment.

In a statement from London where he resides, Hussain said the operation had targetted Muhajirs, Urdu-speaking migrants from India after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent.

The MQM was formed by Hussain in the early 1980s to protect the interests of the settlers.

Activists of the faction led by Hussain were charged with criminal activities and running torture cells to ensure MQM control.

A Sindhi nationalist of the Jiye Sindh organization, who asked not to be named, also complained about the operation and alleged it had political overtones.

"Many Sindhi youth were arrested and tortured to death on false allegations of terrorism, banditry, and other crimes," he said.

"The entire population of the province has been put on the suspect list by labeling the nationalist upsurge foreign-inspired terrorist activity," he added.

He alleged that an army and bureaucracy dominated by Punjab, which has 60 percent of the country's population of 120 million, wanted to create a political culture to its liking in Sindh.

While admitting that Sindh's crime problem had been contained, another Sindhi nationalist, Ayub Sheikh, said the presence of army "is not the answer to Sindh's socioeconomic problems."

The army officer denied the allegations of victimization saying "the operation was conducted without any political considerations."

Before the army operation, 1,387 kidnappings for ransom were reported in the first six months of 1992.

## PPP: 'Feudals' Keeping Bhutto From Public

*BK2106134193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 Jun 93 pp 1, 2*

[Text] Lahore—Leaders of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] have once again expressed concern over the few influenced feudals of the party who are keeping Benazir Bhutto away from the people and party workers. They were speaking at a function held to celebrate the 40th birthday of Benazir Bhutto [BB] at a local hotel under the auspices of Democratic Writers Forum on Sunday.

The leaders, which included Hanif Ramay, Jehangir Badr and Abdul Qadir Shaheen, were unanimous in repeatedly criticising the leadership surrounding Bhutto but avoided naming any one. However, they mentioned them as a symbol of all lies within party and prayed to God for imparting more knowledge to BB regarding the real issues of party workers and poor masses.

As Ramay criticised the PPP leadership, Abdul Qadir retaliated and held Ramay equally responsible along with Khan and Kauser Niazi for party problems. Jehangir Badr disagreed with Abdul Qadir over the future of party leaders.

Former Punjab CM [Chief Minister] Hanif Ramay was more critical of the feudal and opportunistic group surrounding Benazir. He said soon after launching People's Party in the early 60s, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was also surrounded by a smiliar cadre which included people like Kauser Niazi. He apologised the audience for leaving the party at that period of the history instead of arriving for its improvement. However, he said Benazir Bhutto should now realise that the strength of a political leader rests with his own political initiative, otherwise people start distancing from him/her.

In his typical style he suggested that instead of becoming a part of the troika comprising the president, COAS [Chief of Army Staff] and PM [Prime Minister], Benazir Bhutto should head a troika comprising a strong leadership at the top along with the dedicated workers and general public.

He regretted the role of political workers and said that besides waging a tiring political struggle full of hardships, they have not done justice to their own party. Instead of preventing the feudals from taking over the control of party leadership through sheer strength of money and contacts, they too started (?licking) their shoes and let them 'abduct' the party leadership. He said that party workers should come to age and should act according to the teachings of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Ramay demanded basic changes in the present electoral system and asked that it be based on proportional representation. He said to ensure the participation of true public representatives in the election system, the government should bear the election expenses.

He also suggested that the government should arrange at least ten joint public meetings in each constituency for all the candidates and arrange the coverage of last public meeting through television. He was sure that this would enable people at large to choose their representatives.

Concluding, he prayed for long life of the PPP co-chairperson and appealed to her that people have blind faith in her leadership, so kindly ensure their full participation in power.

President Punjab PPP Jehangir Badr, who arrived late at the meeting avoided commenting on internal issues of the party and started blaming the Nawaz government for all the social economic and political ills. He was of the view that the proposed New Social Contract (NSC) could prove to be the panacea of all such evils. He (?hinted) at a revolution in case any attempt was made to hinder the democratic process in the court. He also said that by announcing NSC the People's Party has already initiated a revolution to enter the 21st century.

Senior Vice President Punjab PPP, Abdul Qadir Shaheen criticised the induction of Tiwanas, Gilanis, Imams, and Qureshis in the party during the life time of late Bhutto. He said it is time that we should point out the black sheep among ourselves and boot them out of the party.

Farruq Sohail Gowandi, Shujaat Hashmi and other leaders also read small speeches.

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## Two Major Parties Decide To Break With PDA

*BK2206071393 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Jun 93 p 1*

[Text] Abbottabad—Cracks appeared in People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] Sunday when two of its major component parties—Tehrik-i-Istaqlal [TI] and Tehrik-i-Jaafria Pakistan decided in principle to part ways with the alliance due to growing differences over anti and pro president policies of its allied parties.

A decision to this effect was taken here during a three-hour meeting between Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan and Tehrik-i-Jaafria leader Munir Hussain Gillani at the former's residence. The two leaders expressed their concern over the pro-president policies of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chairperson Benazir Bhutto. They observed that Benazir Bhutto by supporting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan against the "democratic government" of Nawaz Sharif without the consent of other component parties of the alliance had violated the agreement between them.

A TI leader who was also present in the meeting, told THE FRONTIER POST on condition of anonymity that both the parties of PDA had also decided not to participate in the APC [All Party Conference] meeting scheduled to be held on June 23 due to the same reasons.

The insider further said that the decision of parting ways with the PDA came after the lunch given by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the honour of TI chief Asghar Khan after which the former air chief started contacting other PDA parties and succeeded in winning over support of the Tehrik to support Nawaz Sharif against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and to repeal 8th Amendment. The source further disclosed that in return Nawaz Sharif assured him of PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (Nawaz) support in the next presidential election.

Meanwhile, Asghar Khan in statement yesterday said: "The Tehrik- i-Istaqlal will not participate in the APC meeting reported to be called for June 23". He said that in view of the developments that had taken place during the last few weeks and the political situation that had emerged in the country, his party was against asking the president to use his powers under 8th Amendment to dissolve the assemblies.

Asghar Khan said such a demand by opposition parties would hinder the process of reconciliation that had been started and would lead to further political instability and confusion in the country. He said instead of making such a demand, it would be better to continue to work for reaching at an agreement with the government and support the repeal of 8th Amendment and the holding of free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Despite the fact that TI was working against the recent policies of PDA, Asghar Khan denied that his party would quit PDA and added that TI was a part of the alliance. But an insider stressed that TI would formally announce to quit PDA within a couple of days.

### Khan Receives French Envoy, Bosnia Discussed

*BK2206151493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The outgoing ambassador of France to Pakistan, Mr. Jean-Pierre Masset, paid a farewell call on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president's house] today. During the meeting, the situation in Bosnia came under discussion. Mr. Masset's next assignment will be in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The president explained to him Pakistan's stand on the Bosnian issue. He also conveyed to him the grave concern and anguish felt by the people of Pakistan and the entire Muslim world over the Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina. The president expressed concern over lack of enthusiasm shown by the international community in effectively dealing with the situation. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan lauded the efforts made by the outgoing ambassador for strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and France. The outgoing envoy thanked the president and the Government of Pakistan for the cooperation and hospitality extended to him during his four-year stay.

### Editorial Makes Case for Removal of President

*BK2206093393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jun 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "Time for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to quit"]

[Text] Mr.. Iftikhar Gilani was on the ball and drove it home fair and square. No wonder he was warmly applauded by the House. He attacked the Eighth Amendment as a dump of "political filth" and explained at some length how President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had exercised the powers and discretion available to him under the Eighth Amendment to undermine the democratic process. He used strong words which were understandable considering the anguish he and his colleagues in the National Assembly had suffered in their struggle to uphold the sovereignty of Parliament.

Mr.. Gilani's detractors would discover all kinds of motives in his denunciation of the Eighth Amendment but that will not diminish the aptness and force of the position he has taken on a question of vital importance to the nation. Dr. Mubashar Hassan, who was Minister of Finance in the 1970s, said the other day that nobody in Pakistan believes in anybody any more. Every statement is suspect and every action is seen as part of some self-serving design. No doubt insinuations will be made that Mr. Gilani had succumbed to "Glitter" or some political inducement.

We will not know whether the proposal Mr.. Gilani made in the House had the approval of Ms Benazir Bhutto. After all Mr.. Gilani is an old and trusted member of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and the likelihood that he must have taken his leader into confidence should not be ruled out. We recall that on an earlier occasion when Mr. Gilani suggested the course of negotiations between the opposition and the [words indistinct] the PPP hawks took him to task for it but Ms Benazir Bhutto supported his proposal and, in fact, authorised him to prepare the ground for consultations which might lead to some political understanding between her and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. It was at Mr.. Gilani's initiative that Ms Benazir Bhutto accepted the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, much to the chagrin of some of the PPP hard-liners. We do not know how Mr.. Gilani's initiative was frustrated but it is no secret that the prospects of political understanding between Mr.. Nawaz Sharif and Ms Benazir Bhutto caused great concern in President Ishaq's camp. Efforts were then launched to subvert the negotiations between the opposition and the government. The tragic results of that are now in front of us. Ms Benazir Bhutto decided to align herself with President Ishaq and it was with her support that he ordered the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government. That order has since been declared unlawful by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his associates in the dissolution of the National Assembly have still to face the consequences of having dissolved the National Assembly without lawful authority.

The house has adopted the resolution moved by Mr.. Gilani and a committee will now examine the question of repealing the Eighth Amendment and removing other anomalies in the Constitution. We hope Ms Benazir Bhutto will give her unqualified support to the committee. It would be in the fitness of things for her to nominate Mr.. Gilani as PPP representative on that committee.

There is no merit in the suggestion that Mr.. Gilani's attack on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was intended to pre-empt the prospects of normalisation of relations between the President and the Prime Minister. Their relations came to an end on April 18 and even if President Ghulam Ishaq Khan were to receive the Prime Minister with "open arms" it will make no difference to the fact that in the President's judgment Mr.. Nawaz Sharif is incapable of running the Federal government in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. President Ishaq is known for 'flexibility.' Did he not welcome Ms Benazir Bhutto and her associates into the Caretaker government without any embarrassment? He conveniently forgot that not too long ago he had dismissed the government of Ms Benazir Bhutto on charges of corruption and misuse of power. There is no reason why President Ghulam Ishaq Khan should not embrace Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif with great warmth. What is President Ishaq's principal interest? To remain in office for as long as possible. He is prepared to off-load any principle under the cloak of tolerance and generosity to secure his own interest.

We hope that the constitution of the Committee will open the way for a genuine political dialogue between the government and the opposition. The central point in such a dialogue must be the holding of mid-term election at the appropriate time. While the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition can decide when the election should be held, the people of Pakistan know that there is no possibility of holding any free and fair election while President Ghulam Ishaq Khan remains as President of Pakistan. His presence in that office encourages political intrigue and will only cause greater confusion and instability. He will not let the provincial assemblies and governments function without interference because he has to demonstrate that the Federation cannot be run in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. So long as he is there he can always lure the opposition into the belief that they can get more from him than from their political rival, the Prime Minister.

Once again the country is in the throes of political suspense and uncertainty. Will President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolve the National Assembly again? Will he declare a state of emergency and suspend all fundamental rights? Will he somehow persuade the army to pull his chestnuts out of the fire? Will he suspend all the provincial assemblies, whatever the judgment of the courts and impose Governor's rule in the provinces? Who knows? But we do know that the time has come for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to quit. Now. Now. Now...

## Reconciliation Urged on Khan, Sharif

*BK2206151393 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu
20 Jun 93 p 3*

[Editorial: "Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's positive response"]

[Text] The president's statement in a special interview with the prestigious daily, THE NEWS, expressing his readiness to hold a dialogue with the prime minister and to welcome him with open arms in order to normalize their relations has received an encouraging response from the prime minister's camp. According to press reports, the prime minister expressed an amiable response to the president's remarks and said that I had always been desirous of having better relations with the president. I tried to maintain good relations even when the visitors and advisers of the president's house were engaged in provocative activities under the name of the president. Efforts were made to destabilize my government and the democratic system. But I ignored them all in the interests of the country. Not only did I go to see him, but through my colleagues and friends I requested that he not put the country's political stability at stake.

The prime minister said that, thank God, the president has now acknowledged the need for a better relationship between him and me and recognized the parliament's right to revise the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution and pledged to protect the new amendment. The prime minister said that in view of the president's statement, the situation in the provinces should now improve. The president has termed the dissolution of the National Assembly as a matter of the past. The dissolution of the two provincial assemblies was a part of this process. "How such a seasoned person like the president can be unaware of the fact that calling something a matter of the past, a major part of which still exists, is tantamount to ignoring the truth," the prime minister asked. The prime minister said that he is ready to visit the president's house not only once, but one hundred times whenever the nation thinks it is necessary and in the country's interests.

The president's and the prime minister's move to normalize relations and to act in coordination with each other has so far remained limited to statements alone. Of course, that itself is a positive development. But it is obvious that the degree of bitterness and tension that has developed between the two cannot be wiped out by only a couple of statements and counterstatements. Both of them have to take fresh initiatives in this regard. [Words indistinct] a team of federal ministers will meet the president soon and will put forward their grievances to the president and will demand some steps to rectify the situation. If this meeting proves to be fruitful, then arrangements will be made for a face-to-face meeting between the president and the prime minister. If the prime minister's camp has already decided to move on these lines and it is really ignoring the voice of those who are opposed to a meeting between the president and the prime minister, then the prime minister should set up a team as soon as possible and send it to the president for consultations so that the next step can be accelerated.

The situation at present is that the dissolution of the two provincial assemblies is under the consideration of the high courts and lawyers of both sides are trying their best to win the case for their respective clients. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for launching a no-confidence motion against the Wattoo government in Punjab. The Parvez Elahi group has already showed its strength in Islamabad. Moves have already been made to impeach the speaker and the deputy speaker of the Punjab Assembly. The Punjab chief minister's group is trying to secure a high court order invalidating any move of no-confidence against the speaker as it did in the case of the chief minister. So, the legal battle in Punjab is at a high pitch. Meanwhile, domestic and foreign observers feel that whatever decision the Lahore High Court makes, it will not lead to a solution of the problem because the governor of Punjab himself has the authority to dissolve the assembly on the prior permission of the president. And he can use this discretionary power when he feels it is necessary.

So the prevailing situation affirms the real need for making efforts to establish a cordial relationship between the president and the prime minister without delay. If no concrete step is taken to improve the relationship, then the people cannot not be blamed if they allege that the president's statement and the prime minister's counterstatement was meant only to influence public opinion. That is, each of them tried to portray himself as a champion of reconciliation and reforms while actually having no intention of relinquishing his present posture and improve the relationship. The action of the president and the prime minister should not create such an unenviable public reaction. In other words, practical steps should immediately be taken without any undue delay to improve the situation and establish a cordial relationship between the president and the prime minister. Reports say that the prime minister was supposed to begin consultations with his close colleagues to chalk out the practical steps on 19 June. We hope that his deliberations with his colleagues will take a positive turn and initial contact will be made with the president. The president's house, on the other hand, should also take care not to do anything on its part that may strengthen the hands of those who want to prevent the prime minister from establishing a normal cordial relationship with the president. A glimmer of hope has emerged from yesterday's interview with the president. The two sides should now play their role in making this hope brighter and fruitful. The intensity of the crisis will miraculously be abated if relations between the president and the prime minister are normalized, thus enabling the perturbed people of Pakistan to breathe a sigh of relief. Also, the dangers being faced during the ongoing experiment with democracy will not only be considerably reduced but eliminated.

### Minister Comments on Influx of Bosnian Refugees

*BK2206101993 Karachi DAWN in English
22 Jun 93 p 11*

[Text] Islamabad, June 20—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has said the government for the time being has no intention to involve non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the process of providing shelter to the homeless Bosnian refugees.

He was talking to newsmen here at the Islamabad airport where he had come to receive the second batch of the Bosnian refugees on Sunday afternoon.

Responding to a question, he said no date had yet been finalised for sending Pakistani troops to Bosnia. He said Pakistan had always been contributing to peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations, adding that "we will be happy to contribute in Bosnia when contacted by the UN".

Mr. Kanjoo said the commitment of the people and the government of Pakistan to the Bosnian cause was well known and very clear. He said, adding that Pakistan had made arrangements for the evacuation of Bosnian refugees from Croatia and providing shelter to them on war footing and humanitarian grounds. He said Pakistan and Bosnia were also close to each other as the people of both the countries shared the same faith.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said Pakistan despite its limited resources would continue to extend maximum possible assistance to the Bosnians at diplomatic and political levels.

When asked whether Pakistan would make an appeal to other countries to play their role in protecting the fundamental rights, lives and property of the Bosnian people, he said the National Assembly had passed a resolution in this regard.

### Cooperation Pact Signed With Uzbekistan

*BK2106035693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to enhance their cooperation in communications, industry, engineering, and other fields. The agreement was finalized after a meeting between visiting Uzbek Minister for Construction Work Iskanderov and senior officials of the Production Ministry in Islamabad yesterday.

Uzbekistan expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Heavy Mechanical Complex in Taxila in jointly producing a cement factory with a capacity of 1 million tons per annum. The cement plant will be energy efficient with better pollution control systems. The possibility of supplying Pakistani beet sugar to Uzbekistan was also explored. The two sides also discussed joint marketing of sugar factories, cement factories, and other engineering products to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

## Sri Lanka

### LTTE Releases 5 Policemen in Exchange for Goods

*BK2206115293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] released five policemen they were holding prisoner in Jaffna this morning. Thirty-four other prisoners are yet to be released. A spokesman of the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that the five police and 28 of their next of kin visiting the prisoners were scheduled to arrive at Ratmalana air base at 1600 by a special Air Force plane from the Palaly military base in Jaffna. The government has eased the restrictions on the supply of petrol, diesel and lubricating oil, medicines, coconut oil, bicycles, small transistor receivers, [word indistinct] and fertilizer to the north. The balanced 34 persons are to be released by the LTTE when these items reach Jaffna.

### Foreign Investments Mark Sharp Rise

*BK1906113693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Text] Foreign investments in Sri Lanka is showing remarkable increase. Two hundred and twenty-six new projects were approved by the Board of Investment during the first five months of this year alone. The total investment in these projects exceeds 19,700 million rupees. Nearly 9,500 million rupees takes the form of foreign investment. Two hundred and ninety-one projects were approved by the board last year. Ninety-one agreements on the establishment of new ventures were signed between January and March. Japan, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Italy, Malaysia, Germany, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Bermuda, and the United Kingdon are the principle investor nations.

### Over 5 Billion Rupees Earned From Tea Auction

*BK1906115293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Text] A relatively high price paid in the local tea auction during the first five months of this year has helped recover from the setbacks the country's major plantation industry experienced during the last year owing to severe drought. The total average sale recorded up to the end of May reflects a 20.8 percent increase when compared to the corresponding period in 1992. A substantial recovery in prices is evident in the case of low grown tea, from a low price of 55 rupees and 50 cents per kilo in 1992 it has shot up to 70 rupees and 62 cents. This 27 percent increase will boost the tea industry to restructure its operation after a lean period in 1992. Eighty-seven million kilograms of tea have been sold in Colombo during this five month period as against 68 million kilograms during the corresponding period last year. In addition, four million kilograms have been sold in private sale and forward contracts. Only about a million kilograms were sold on this basis last year. The key industry has brought in nearly 5,665 million rupees in foreign exchange during the first five months of this year.

### Official Comments on U.S. Investment

*BK2006113093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jun 93*

[Text] U.S. investments in Sri Lanka will pick up in the next few years, according to the latest projections of the Board of Investment [BOI]. A senior official of the BOI told LANKAPUVATH news agency that an increasing number of American investors have recognized Sri Lanka's tremendous potentials which has made the country Asia's most attractive investment center. He said that although the United States is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner accounting for 25 percent of all exports and 80 percent of garment exports, U.S. investment in Sri Lanka was minimal. However, with the vigorous investment promotional mission American investments in Sri Lanka will improve within the next few years.

According to the BOI official, the Sri Lankan embassy in Washington is fully committed to attracting American investors to the country. By the end of last year, the BOI had approved 86 projects with a total estimated U.S. investment of 2,732 million rupees. U.S. projects have provided employment to 7,930 workers. Recently a $5.3 million project to set up a tomato processing plant received BOI approval. The USA jointly with a Sri Lankan company will establish 250 housing units with a total investment of 125 million rupees. The BOI official said manufacturing industries, agro business, food processing, garments, and computer software have been identified as major areas of U.S. investment in Sri Lanka.